

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



3 1761 0088322 5

THIS BOOK  
IS FROM  
THE LIBRARY OF  
Rev. James Leach

Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2010 with funding from  
University of Toronto













THE SORROWS OF GOD  
AND OTHER POEMS

## G. A. STUDDERT KENNEDY

'His publishers are well justified in advertising this author's writings as "the remarkable books by G. A. Studdert Kennedy."'—*Church Times*.

'There is a good deal of truth in the claim that the Rev. G. A. Studdert Kennedy is the most remarkable preacher of the day.'—*Church Family Newspaper*.

### Food for the Fed-Up

This is a new volume of addresses by the author of 'Lies!' and of those two books 'The Hardest Part' and 'Rough Talks by a Padre,' which the critic in *The Weekly Dispatch* described as 'the most powerful books of their kind since Bunyan.'

### Peace Rhymes of a Padre

'The straight talk to perfection.'—*Times*. 'Expressed with extraordinary force and outspokenness.'—*Bookman*.

### Rough Rhymes of a Padre

### More Rough Rhymes of a Padre

**A THIRD EDITION has just been published at 2s. 6d. net paper of LIES!**

'We doubt if any priest of our communion, or perhaps any communion at all, has such a gift of startling speech. . . . He speaks as the preaching friars may have spoken, in the language of the wayfaring man taken up into and fused with the eloquence of a master.'—*Church Times*.

Uniform with the above, but bound in cloth, 2s. 6d. net

### The Hardest Part

### Rough Talks by a Padre

HODDER & STOUGHTON, LTD., LONDON

G. A. STUDDERT KENNEDY

(‘WOODBINE WILLIE’)

THE  
SORROWS OF GOD

AND OTHER POEMS

HODDER AND STOUGHTON

LIMITED

LONDON



## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

MOST of the poems in this book appeared originally in the famous little volumes of *Rough Rhymes* written by 'Woodbine Willie' during the War and immediately after the Peace. These *Rough Rhymes* have sold to the extent of nearly 70,000 copies.

Since the War, this Padre—known affectionately to thousands of soldiers as 'Woodbine Willie'—has become revealed as the Rev. G. A. Studdert Kennedy, M.C., H.C.F., one of the most striking personalities in the Church to-day. This volume is issued in answer to many requests for a collected edition of his rhymes and poems. Several hitherto unpublished poems have been added.



## CONTENTS

|                                    | PAGE |
|------------------------------------|------|
| WOODBINE WILLIE . . . . .          | 1    |
| THE SUFFERING GOD . . . . .        | 2    |
| FAITH . . . . .                    | 6    |
| IF JESUS NEVER LIVED . . . . .     | 11   |
| PATIENCE . . . . .                 | 17   |
| HER GIFT . . . . .                 | 18   |
| TEMPTATION . . . . .               | 21   |
| IDOLS . . . . .                    | 22   |
| THE TRUTH OF MAY . . . . .         | 25   |
| THE COMRADE GOD . . . . .          | 28   |
| WASTE . . . . .                    | 30   |
| YOUTH . . . . .                    | 31   |
| INDIFFERENCE . . . . .             | 34   |
| A SERMON . . . . .                 | 35   |
| A MOTHER UNDERSTANDS . . . . .     | 40   |
| SOLOMON IN ALL HIS GLORY . . . . . | 41   |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| HIS MATE . . . . .                            | 42 |
| AT A SÉANCE . . . . .                         | 45 |
| HIGH AND LIFTED UP . . . . .                  | 47 |
| SET YOUR AFFECTIONS ON THINGS ABOVE . . . . . | 52 |
| ONLY ENGAGED . . . . .                        | 54 |
| HUMILITY . . . . .                            | 55 |
| NON ANGLI SED ANGELI . . . . .                | 56 |
| DEATH. . . . .                                | 61 |
| TREES . . . . .                               | 63 |
| AT THE EUCHARIST . . . . .                    | 65 |
| JUDGMENT . . . . .                            | 68 |
| MY PEACE I GIVE UNTO YOU . . . . .            | 71 |
| EASTER . . . . .                              | 72 |
| RIGHT IS MIGHT . . . . .                      | 73 |
| MAN'S SOUL . . . . .                          | 76 |
| A SONG OF THE DESERT . . . . .                | 77 |
| COME UNTO ME . . . . .                        | 79 |
| TWO WORLDS . . . . .                          | 88 |
| WAIT . . . . .                                | 90 |
| PARADISE . . . . .                            | 91 |
| ETERNAL HOPE . . . . .                        | 92 |
| DEAD AND BURIED . . . . .                     | 93 |



|                                     | PAGE |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| DEMOBILISED . . . . .               | 96   |
| IF YE FORGET . . . . .              | 98   |
| AT A HARVEST FESTIVAL . . . . .     | 99   |
| SO I DREAM . . . . .                | 101  |
| MY PEACE—I LEAVE WITH YOU . . . . . | 104  |
| APRIL . . . . .                     | 106  |
| 'THE ENDING OF THE DAY' . . . . .   | 107  |
| A SCRAP OF PAPER . . . . .          | 109  |
| MISSING—BELIEVED KILLED . . . . .   | 110  |
| CHEER-I-O . . . . .                 | 112  |
| TO PATRICK . . . . .                | 114  |
| IT IS FINISHED . . . . .            | 116  |
| TRUTH . . . . .                     | 118  |
| IT IS NOT FINISHED . . . . .        | 121  |

### DIALECT POEMS

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| THE SORROW OF GOD . . . . . | 125 |
| WELL? . . . . .             | 133 |
| THE SECRET . . . . .        | 140 |
| WHAT'S THE GOOD? . . . . .  | 142 |
| OLD ENGLAND . . . . .       | 148 |
| THE SNIPER . . . . .        | 152 |

|   | PAGE |
|---|------|
| PASSING THE LOVE OF WOMEN . . . . .           | 153  |
| PRAYER BEFORE AN ATTACK . . . . .             | 156  |
| TO STRETCHER BEARERS . . . . .                | 157  |
| TO-DAY THOU SHALT BE WITH ME . . . . .        | 159  |
| NO RETALIATION . . . . .                      | 161  |
| THY WILL BE DONE . . . . .                    | 164  |
| WHAT'S THE USE OF A CROSS TO 'IM? . . . . .   | 168  |
| I KNOW NOT WHERE THEY HAVE LAID HIM . . . . . | 173  |
| O'GRADY'S LETTER . . . . .                    | 177  |
| WORRY . . . . .                               | 180  |
| THE PENSIONER . . . . .                       | 183  |
| A GAL OF THE STREETS . . . . .                | 186  |
| IT'S THE PLUCK . . . . .                      | 188  |
| THE SPIRIT . . . . .                          | 190  |

## WOODBINE WILLIE

THEY gave me this name like their nature,  
    Compacted of laughter and tears,  
A sweet that was born of the bitter,  
    A joke that was torn from the years.

Let me bear it still remembering,  
    All the length of my unpaid debt,  
For the men to whom I owed God's Peace,  
    I have paid with a cigarette.

## THE SUFFERING GOD

If He could speak, that victim torn and bleeding,  
Caught in His pain and nailed upon the Cross,  
Has He to give the comfort souls are needing ?  
Could He destroy the bitterness of loss ?

Once and for all men say He came and bore it,  
Once and for all set up His throne on high,  
Conquered the world and set His standard o'er it,  
Dying that once that men might never die.

Yet men are dying, dying soul and body,  
Cursing the God who gave to them their birth,  
Sick of the world with all its sham and shoddy,  
Sick of the lies that darken all the earth.

Peace we were pledged, yet blood is ever flowing,  
Where on the earth has Peace been ever found ?  
Men do but reap the harvest of their sowing,  
Sadly the songs of human reapers sound.

Sad as the winds that sweep across the ocean,  
Telling to earth the sorrow of the sea.  
Vain is my strife, just empty idle motion,  
All that has been is all there is to be.

So on the earth the time waves beat in thunder,  
    Bearing wrecked hopes upon their heaving breasts,  
Bits of dead dreams, and true hearts torn asunder,  
    Flecked with red foam upon their crimson crests.

How can it be that God can reign in glory,  
    Calmly content with what His Love has done,  
Reading unmoved the piteous shameful story,  
    All the vile deeds men do beneath the sun ?

Are there no tears in the heart of the Eternal ?  
    Is there no pain to pierce the soul of God ?  
Then must He be a fiend of Hell infernal,  
    Beating the earth to pieces with His rod.

Or is it just that there is nought behind it,  
    Nothing but forces purposeless and blind ?  
Is the last thing, if mortal man could find it,  
    Only a power wand'ring as the wind ?

Father, if He, the Christ, were Thy Revealer,  
    Truly the First Begotten of the Lord,  
Then must Thou be a Suff'rer and a Healer,  
    Pierced to the heart by the sorrow of the sword.

Then must it mean, not only that Thy sorrow  
Smote Thee that once upon the lonely tree,  
But that to-day, to-night, and on the morrow,  
Still it will come, O Gallant God, to Thee.

Red with His blood the better day is dawning,  
Pierced by His pain the storm-clouds roll apart,  
Rings o'er the earth the message of the morning,  
Still on the Cross the Saviour bares His heart.

Passionately fierce the voice of God is pleading,  
Pleading with men to arm them for the fight,  
See how those hands, majestically bleeding,  
Call us to rout the armies of the night.

Not to the work of sordid selfish saving  
Of our own souls to dwell with Him on high,  
But to the soldier's splendid selfless braving,  
Eager to fight for Righteousness and die.

Peace does not mean the end of all our striving,  
Joy does not mean the drying of our tears ;  
Peace is the power that comes to souls arriving  
Up to the light where God Himself appears.

Joy is the wine that God is ever pouring  
Into the hearts of those who strive with Him,  
Light'ning their eyes to vision and adoring,  
Strength'ning their arms to warfare glad and grim.

So would I live and not in idle resting,  
Stupid as swine that wallow in the mire ;  
Fain would I fight, and be for ever breasting,  
Danger and death for ever under fire.

Bread of Thy Body give me for my fighting,  
Give me to drink Thy Sacred Blood for wine,  
While there are wrongs that need me for the right-  
ing,  
While there is warfare splendid and divine.

Give me, for light, the sunshine of Thy sorrow,  
Give me for shelter shadow of Thy Cross,  
Give me to share the glory of Thy morrow,  
Gone from my heart the bitterness of Loss.

## FAITH

How do I know that God is good ? I don't.  
I gamble like a man. I bet my life  
Upon one side in life's great war. I must,  
I can't stand out. I must take sides. The man  
Who is a neutral in this fight is not  
A man. He's bulk and body without breath,  
Cold leg of lamb without mint sauce. A fool.  
He makes me sick. Good Lord! Weak tea!  
Cold slops!

I want to live, live out, not wobble through  
My life somehow, and then into the dark.  
I must have God. This life's too dull without,  
Too dull for aught but suicide. What's man  
To live for else? I'd murder some one just  
To see red blood. I'd drink myself blind  
drunk,

And see blue snakes if I could not look up  
To see blue skies, and hear God speaking through  
The silence of the stars. How is it proved?  
It isn't proved, you fool, it can't be proved.  
How can you prove a victory before  
It's won? How can you prove a man who  
leads,  
To be a leader worth the following,



Unless you follow to the death, and out  
Beyond mere death, which is not anything  
But Satan's lie upon eternal life.  
Well—God's my leader, and I hold that He  
Is good, and strong enough to work His plan  
And purpose out to its appointed end.  
I am no fool, I have my reasons for  
This faith, but they are not the reasonings,  
The coldly calculated formulæ  
Of thought divorced from feeling. They are true,  
Too true for that. There's no such thing as  
thought  
Which does not feel, if it be real thought  
And not thought's ghost—all pale and sicklied o'er  
With dead conventions—abstract truth—man's lie  
Upon this living, loving, suff'ring Truth,  
That pleads and pulses in my very veins,  
The blue blood of all beauty, and the breath  
Of life itself. I see what God has done.  
What life in this world is. I see what you  
See, this eternal struggle in the dark.  
I see the foul disorders, and the filth  
Of mind and soul, in which men, wallowing  
Like swine, stamp on their brothers till they drown  
In puddles of stale blood, and vomitings  
Of their corruption. This life stinks in places,

'Tis true, yet scent of roses and of hay  
New mown comes stealing on the evening breeze,  
And through the market's din, the bargaining  
Of cheats, who make God's world a den of thieves,  
I hear sweet bells ring out to prayer, and see  
The faithful kneeling by the Calvary  
Of Christ.

I walk in crowded streets where men  
And women, mad with lust, loose-lipped and lewd,  
Go promenading down to hell's wide gates ;  
Yet have I looked into my mother's eyes,  
And seen the light that never was on sea  
Or land, the light of Love, pure Love and true,  
And on that Love I bet my life. I back  
My mother 'gainst a whore when I believe  
In God, and can a man do less or more ?  
I have to choose. I back the scent of life  
Against its stink. That's what Faith works out at  
In the end. I know not why the Evil,  
I know not why the Good, both mysteries  
Remain unsolved, and both insoluble.  
I know that both are there, the battle set,  
And I must fight on this side or on that.  
I can't stand shiv'ring on the bank, I plunge  
Head first. I bet my life on Beauty, Truth,  
And Love, not abstract but incarnate Truth,

Not Beauty vague and distant, but Beauty's  
Very self made flesh and realised in Love.  
I bet my life on Christ—Christ Crucified.  
Behold your God ! My soul cries out. He hangs,  
Serenely patient in His agony,  
And turns the soul of darkness into light.  
I look upon that body, writhing, pierced  
And torn with nails, and see the battlefields  
Of time, the mangled dead, the gaping wounds,  
The sweating, dazed survivors straggling back,  
The widows worn and haggard, still dry-eyed,  
Because their weight of sorrow will not lift  
And let them weep ; I see the ravished maid,  
The honest mother in her shame ; I see  
All history pass by, and through it all  
Still shines that face, the Christ Face, like a star  
Which pierces drifting clouds, and tells the Truth.  
They pass, but it remains and shines untouched,  
A pledge of that great hour which surely comes  
At last, when the tempest sobs to silence,  
Silver silence, and the moon rides stately  
In an open starry sky, and there is Peace.  
So through the clouds of Calvary—there shines  
His face, and I believe that Evil dies,  
And Good lives on, loves on, and conquers all—  
All War must end in Peace. These clouds are lies.

They cannot last. The blue sky is the Truth.  
For God is Love. Such is my Faith, and such  
My reasons for it, and I find them strong  
Enough. And you? You want to argue? Well,  
I can't. It is a choice. I choose the Christ.

## IF JESUS NEVER LIVED

SUPPOSE it is not true,  
And Jesus never lived,  
But only grew,  
Like Aphrodite, from the foam  
Of fancy—  
From the sea  
Of pure imagining, that frets  
Within the soul eternally.  
Suppose the Word was not made flesh,  
But just another dream,  
Which dwelt amongst us only,  
As a gleam  
Of glory from the land,  
Where sand  
Is gold, and golden sand,  
Shines bright beside the sapphire sea.  
Where up is down,  
And down is up,  
And mortals mount on wings,  
To sup  
From golden goblets  
With young stars  
The nectar of eternity.  
Where trees have souls,

And lilies arms  
To fold us in,  
And charms  
To soothe our sorrows into peace.  
Where cease,  
And sink to silence  
Of content,  
The sad complainings  
Man has sent  
To heaven's high throne  
All down the years,  
Where bitter tears  
Are turned to diamonds for the crown of  
God.

Suppose He never trod  
This earth nor saw the sun,  
Nor looked up to the skies,  
That sinless one,  
All spotless clean,  
Untainted by man's curse,  
The might have been,  
The ghost of good undone.  
Suppose the gospel story lies,  
What then ? Why then  
There are no fairies  
Any more

For men,  
The shore  
Of fairyland is dry,  
Unlapped by any sea.  
All fancies die,  
If Jesus never lived.  
For living fancies need to be  
The symbols of a Truth.  
He is the door  
By which we enter in  
To wonderland.  
By Christ's strong sooth  
Set free from sin,  
Poor Cinderella weds her Prince,  
As we long since  
Were taught and may believe,  
For God is found of those who seek,  
Exalts the humble and the meek,  
And puts the mighty from their seats,  
In Christ.  
Her tryst,  
If Jesus never lived,  
Is still unkept ;  
By those dead ashes where she wept  
For Paradise,  
She weeps on still,

And moans upon her fate,  
The pumpkins still are pumpkins,  
And the mice still mice,  
Still by the cold and empty grate  
She sits in rags and tears.  
Through all the years—the empty years,  
No fairy comes—nor ever will  
If Jesus never lived.  
In Christ's pure light,  
Fair Snowy-White  
Can lift the coffin-lid,  
And leave her tomb,  
And vanquish all the gloom  
Of death.  
Because He lives  
And gives  
To sleeping Beauty  
One long kiss,  
She opens her blue eyes and wakes,  
Forsakes  
Her sleep and shines for ever,  
Beautiful in bliss.  
There is no chance of childhood,  
But for this  
One Child of God, who knew  
That childhood's sweetest dreams come true,



And was their Truth.  
Lord Jesus, live for me,  
Open my eyes to see  
Thy face,  
So by Thy Grace  
Shall all the world be peopled  
By bright forms.  
The wind of many voices,  
In its storms,  
Shall speak of Giant powers,  
The many coloured flowers  
Shall hold their lips up for a kiss.  
Still in the deep  
Shall mermaids sleep,  
And dryads from the oak tree  
Stretch white hands.  
While through the leaves,  
Small faces peep  
And laugh in elfin revelry.  
Binding with silken bands,  
My spirit to the glades.  
So shall my soul swing free  
Of this small world,  
And dance with daffodilly maids,  
Amid the bluebells in the sun.  
O live for me, Thou sinless one,

Cleanse Thou for me  
The earth and sea,  
Sweep all the clouds from off  
The sky,  
For fancies never, never die ;  
If only Jesus lives.

## PATIENCE

SOMETIMES I wish that I might do  
Just one grand deed and die,  
And by that one grand deed reach up  
To meet God in the sky.  
But such is not Thy way, O God,  
Not such is Thy decree,  
But deed by deed, and tear by tear,  
Our souls must climb to Thee,  
As climbed the only Son of God  
From manger unto Cross,  
Who learned, through tears and bloody sweat,  
To count this world but loss.

Who left the Virgin Mother's Arms  
To seek those arms of shame,  
Outstretched upon the lonely hill  
To which the darkness came.  
As deed by deed, and tear by tear,  
He climbed up to the height,  
Each deed a splendid deed, each tear  
A jewel shining bright,  
So grant us, Lord, the patient heart,  
To climb the upward way,  
Until we stand upon the height,  
And see the perfect day.

## HER GIFT

DEAD black against a blood-red sky  
    It stands,  
With outstretched hands,  
    The Calvary.  
What can it mean,  
Beyond the vain recalling of a scene,  
A shameful scene of centuries ago ?  
And yet, if that be so,  
    How can it be,  
    For you and me,  
A thing of any worth at all ?  
We 've seen men die,  
Not once, nor twice, but many times  
    In agony  
As ghastly to behold as that.  
We 've seen men fall,  
And rise, and staggering onward fall again,  
Bedrenched in their own blood,  
Fast flowing like a flood,  
Of crimson sacrifice upon the snow.  
We 've seen, and would forget.  
Why then should there be set  
Before our eyes these monuments of crime ?  
It 's time, high time,

That they were buried in the past ;  
There let them lie,  
In that great sea of merciful oblivion,  
    Where our vile deeds,  
    And outworn creeds,  
    Are left to rot and die.  
    We would forget,  
    And yet,  
Do you remember Rob McNeil  
    And how he died,  
    And cried,  
And pleaded with his men  
    To take that gun,  
    And kill the Hun  
    That worked it dead ?  
    He bled  
Horribly. Do you remember ?  
I can't forget,  
I would not if I could,  
It were not right I should,  
    He died for me.  
He was a God that Boy,  
The only God I could adore.  
And that reminds me I have something here  
He wore :  
He gave it me that night,

But because my heart was sore  
With grief, I have not dared to look at it.  
But here it is, a little leather case,  
A picture, may be, of the face  
That smiled upon him as a babe,  
    All wondering bright,  
    With Mother Light,  
Of tenderest pride and Love.  
The face that oft would dimple into laughter  
At his first Baby tricks.  
It is her gift : but look at it—  
    A little silver Crucifix.

## TEMPTATION

PRAY! Have I prayed! When I'm worn with  
all my praying!

When I've bored the blessed angels with my  
battery of prayer!

It is the proper thing to say—but it's only saying,  
saying,

And I cannot get to Jesus for the glory of her  
hair.

## IDOLS

THINK ye the ancient Gods are dead ?  
They live and work their will,  
Before their shrines the sons of men  
Bow down and grovel still.

Still Venus stands with swelling breasts  
And sidelong glancing eyes,  
And lures lust-drunken devotees,  
To trust her when she lies.

The ancient lie that lust is Love  
And passion what it seems,  
A lotus land where men may find  
The heaven of their dreams.

The old eternal cruel smile  
That lulls men's souls to sleep,  
And wraps them in a paradise  
That they may wake—and weep.

She smiles and counts her victims up—  
Young wife and little child,



The festering filth of bodies  
By lures of lust defiled.

Blind babies crying for the light,  
Strong men with open sores,  
The never-ceasing sacrifice  
Streams through her temple doors.

And last of all her captive king  
With bleeding hands and feet,  
Still burdened with the crushing Cross,  
Christ comes—and passing sweet

To her lascivious, mocking eyes  
The sight of Him must be,  
The brightest jewel in her crown  
Christ's bitter agony.

She still can take and lead Him bound  
To some poor altar place,  
Where weary disappointed souls  
Creep in to see His face.

And laughing loud can leave Him there,  
To nurse His wounded feet,  
While she fares forth in flaming robes,  
To sway the surging street.

There mid the dust of dying creeds  
Christ starves, while Venus feasts.  
She holds the people's hearts, and leaves  
To Him—the mumbling priests.

## THE TRUTH OF MAY

DEAR land of May,  
The wise men say,  
That there is nought behind  
Thee but a force.  
A million forces,  
Purposeless and blind,  
That wind and wind  
In wandering courses,  
Unto no end  
But nothingness at last.  
No Father, Friend  
Of Man has made Thee,  
But a chance,  
A sudden chance,  
That happened blindly in the dance  
Of Atoms that is past,  
They say.  
Well let them say.  
These bearded grey  
Blind fools with spectacles,  
And goggling eyes,  
Glued to their books,  
That seek the living mid the dead,  
The dust of theories they have read,

And weave great lies  
To cheat child souls of May.  
They make me laugh,  
Great solemn owls,  
That sit up blinking in the-night,  
And prove that light  
Is darkness, and the sun a moon,  
Because it is too bright  
For their dull souls to see,  
The mystery  
Of May is not revealed  
To such as these,  
'Tis signed and sealed ;  
The talk of trees,  
The music of the meadows,  
The wizardry,  
Of this small stream,  
That sings—and sings—and dances,  
While sudden sunlight glances,  
In a silvery gleam,  
Through fresh green leaves,  
That overhang the bank,  
And weaves  
A diamond necklace for that mossy rock.  
These only mock  
The learned with their rude, rank

Truths of science and their books.  
The poetry of brooks  
Is deeper than their prose,  
Owls—let them reason and welcome,  
Here is a heart that knows  
The truth of May,  
And walks the way,  
By which its fairy beauty leads,  
Through woods and lanes,  
With haunting strains  
Of magic music, sowing seeds  
Of summer in the sod,  
Until she finds her fullness  
And bows down in adoration  
Mid the yellow cowslips  
At the golden feet of God.

## THE COMRADE GOD

THOU who dost dwell in depths of timeless being,  
Watching the years as moments passing by,  
Seeing the things that lie beyond our seeing,  
Constant, unchanged, as æons dawn and die.

THOU who canst count the stars upon their courses,  
Holding them all in the hollow of Thy hand,  
Lord of the world with its myriad of forces  
Seeing the hills as single grains of sand.

ART THOU so great that this our bitter crying  
Sounds in Thine ears like sorrow of a child ?  
Hast Thou looked down on centuries of sighing,  
And like a heartless mother only smiled ?

SINCE in Thy sight to-day is as to-morrow,  
And while we strive Thy victory is won,  
Hast Thou no tears to shed upon our sorrow ?  
Art Thou a staring splendour like the sun ?

DOST THOU not heed the helpless sparrow's falling ?  
Canst Thou not see the tears that women weep ?  
Canst Thou not hear Thy littlest children calling ?  
Dost Thou not watch above them as they sleep ?

Then, O my God, Thou art too great to love me,  
Since Thou dost reign beyond the reach of tears,  
Calm and serene as the cruel stars above me,  
High and remote from human hopes and fears.

Only in Him can I find home to hide me,  
Who on the Cross was slain to rise again,  
Only with Him my Comrade God beside me,  
Can I go forth to war with sin and pain.

## WASTE

WASTE of Muscle, waste of Brain,  
Waste of Patience, waste of Pain,  
Waste of Manhood, waste of Health,  
Waste of Beauty, waste of Wealth,  
Waste of Blood, and waste of Tears,  
Waste of youth's most precious years,  
Waste of ways the saints have trod,  
Waste of Glory, waste of God,—  
War !



## YOUTH

Love's life and death,  
God sets them both before me now,  
And I perforce must choose.

Death seems so safe,  
And Life so full of danger,  
An adventure wild,  
Wherein I stand to gain or lose  
So much.

Life and Love,  
She stands for both, the Child,  
With her bright eyes and sun-tanned face,  
And when she turns to smile at me,  
I have no place

For fear ;

The venture calls me, and I follow in my heart,  
I long to launch my boat

Upon forbidden seas,

And float

For years toward the sunrise

Where the trees

At even shelter lovers of a swarthier race,  
Whose blood runs fire through their veins,

And Love bestows more freely

Fiercer pleasures, fiercer pains.

Ah Love, is 't true  
That thou art ofttimes cruel to the Loved ?  
Is there no certain refuge in thine arms,  
And will the charms  
Of thy soft beauty  
          Fade away ?  
Is it only duty  
          That is strong ?  
His visage is so marred,  
His face so pale,  
And round him ever I can hear the wail  
Of those who lived in pain  
And died in agony.  
O Love, must I leave thee for this,  
Forsake thine arms to gain one ice-cold kiss  
From those pale lips ?  
Why is God's Love so cold ?  
Why does it seem so pale and old  
Compared with hers,  
Compared with hers which pleads and pulses  
          in my blood,  
Or sweeps across my senses like a flood  
Of golden joy ?

It is not fair this choice,  
God's Love is just a voice,

A still small voice that whispers and is gone.  
So small this voice,  
Yet it persists,  
And by persistence pierces passion through  
    with pain  
And twists  
What once was triumph into torture of the  
    soul.  
My God is there no whole  
Where Peace and Passion meet  
    And are at rest ?

## INDIFFERENCE

WHEN Jesus came to Golgotha they hanged Him on  
a tree,  
They drave great nails through hands and feet, and  
made a Calvary.  
They crowned Him with a crown of thorns, red  
were His wounds and deep,  
For those were crude and cruel days, and human  
flesh was cheap.

When Jesus came to Birmingham they simply passed  
Him by,  
They never hurt a hair of Him, they only let Him die.  
For men had grown more tender, and they would  
not give Him pain,  
They only just passed down the street, and left  
Him in the rain.

Still Jesus cried, 'Forgive them, for they know not  
what they do,'  
And still it rained the winter rain that drenched  
Him through and through;  
The crowds went home and left the streets without  
a soul to see,  
And Jesus crouched against a wall and cried for  
Calvary.

## A SERMON

MY brethren, the ways of God  
No man can understand,  
We can but wait in awe and watch  
The wonders of His hand.  
He dwells in Majesty sublime  
Beyond the starry height,  
His Wisdom is ineffable,  
His Love is Infinite.  
Before Him all created things  
Do bow them and obey,  
The million stars that night by night  
Wheel down the Milky Way.  
The shrieking storm obeys His Will,  
The wild waves hear His call,  
The mountain and the midge's wing,  
God made and governs all.  
'Tis not for us to question Him,  
To ask or reason why,  
'Tis ours to love and worship Him  
And serve Him till we die.  
O weeping Mother torn with grief,  
Poor stricken heart that cries,  
And rocks a cradle empty now,  
'Tis by God's will he dies.

His strong young body blown to bits,  
His raw flesh quiv'ring still,  
His comrades' groans of agony,  
These are God's Holy Will.  
He measures out our Peace and War  
As seemeth to Him best.  
His judgments are unknowable,  
Remember that—and rest.  
For what are we poor worms of earth,  
Whose life is for a day,  
Our finite minds that Satan blinds,  
My brethren, what are they ?  
We are but little children weak  
Who cling to God's right hand ;  
Just think how wonderful He is,  
And bow to His command.  
He has some hidden purpose sure  
For all this blood and tears,  
It is His Will—be still—be still,  
He is the Lord of years.  
He bids us love our enemies,  
And live in Christian Peace,  
'Tis only He can order Wars  
And woes that never cease.  
Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,  
Beware ! Thou shalt not kill :

Behold the bloody fields of France,  
They are God's Holy Will.  
That is what makes Him wonderful  
To our poor human sight ;  
He only can work miracles  
And turn Wrong into Right.  
So bow you down and worship Him,  
Kneel humbly and adore  
This Infinitely Loving God  
Who is the Lord of War.  
Lift up your hands in ceaseless prayer  
That He will spare your lives,  
And let His loving judgments fall  
On other people's wives.  
He is a God who answers prayer  
And alters His decrees  
If only we persistently  
Beseech Him on our knees.  
If only we would pray enough,  
My brethren, for our sons,  
Then He would save their lives for us,  
And spike the German guns.  
Our shrieks of pain go up in vain,  
The wide world's miseries  
Must still persist until we learn  
To pray upon our knees.

Upon our knees, my friends, I said,  
And mark well what I say,  
God wants to see us on our knees,  
The proper place to pray.  
Nought is impossible to God  
In answer to such prayers,  
If only we are meek enough,  
He is a God who spares.  
Whenever people seek to know  
And ask the reason why,  
Their sons are swallowed up by wars,  
And called to fight and die.  
There is one thing I ask, dear friends,  
One thing I always say,  
I ask them straight, I 'm not afraid,  
I ask them, ' Did you pray ?  
Did you pray humbly on your knees  
That it might be God's Will  
To spare his life and bring him back,  
To spare, and not to kill ? '  
Then if they still can answer Yes,  
And think to baffle me,  
I simply answer, ' Bow your head,  
His death was God's decree.'  
And who are we to question it,  
Who crawl upon the earth



As insects in His holy sight,  
Vile things of little worth ?  
Remember, rather, all your sins,  
And bow to God's decrees.  
Seek not to know the plans of God,  
But pray upon your knees,  
That you may love with all your heart,  
With all your soul and mind,  
This perfect God you cannot know,  
Whose face you cannot find.  
You have no notion what He's like,  
You cannot know His Will,  
He's wrapped in darkest mystery,  
But you must love Him still.  
And love Him all the more because  
He is the unknown God  
Who leads you blindfold down the path  
That martyred Saints have trod.  
That is the Gospel of the Christ.  
Submit whate'er betides.  
You cannot make the wrong world right,  
'Tis God alone decides.

*O by Thy Cross and Passion, Lord,  
By broken hearts that pant  
For comfort and for Love of Thee,  
Deliver us from cant.*

## A MOTHER UNDERSTANDS

DEAR LORD, I hold my hand to take  
Thy Body, broken once for me,  
Accept the Sacrifice I make,  
My Body, broken, Christ, for Thee.

His was my body, born of me,  
Born of my bitter travail pain,  
And it lies broken on the field,  
Swept by the wind and the rain.

*Surely a Mother understands Thy thorn-crowned  
head,  
The mystery of Thy piercèd hands—the Broken  
Bread.*

## SOLOMON IN ALL HIS GLORY

STILL I see them coming, coming,  
In their ragged broken line,  
Walking wounded in the sunlight,  
Clothed in majesty divine.

For the fairest of the lilies,  
That God's summer ever sees,  
Ne'er was clothed in royal beauty  
Such as decks the least of these.

Tattered, torn, and bloody khaki,  
Gleams of white flesh in the sun,  
Raiment worthy of their beauty  
And the great things they have done.

Purple robes and snowy linen  
Have for earthly kings sufficed,  
But these bloody sweaty tatters  
Were the robes of Jesus Christ.

## HIS MATE

THERE 's a broken, battered village  
Somewhere up behind the line,  
There 's a dug-out and a bunk there,  
That I used to say were mine.

I remember how I reached them,  
Dripping wet and all forlorn,  
In the dim and dreary twilight  
Of a weeping summer dawn.

All that week I 'd buried brothers,  
In one bitter battle slain,  
In one grave I laid two hundred.  
God! What sorrow and what rain!

And that night I 'd been in trenches,  
Seeking out the sodden dead,  
And just dropping them in shell-holes,  
With a service swiftly said.

For the bullets rattled round me,  
But I couldn't leave them there,  
Water-soaked in flooded shell-holes,  
Reft of common Christian prayer.

So I crawled round on my belly,  
And I listened to the roar  
Of the guns that hammered Thiepval,  
Like big breakers on the shore.

Then there spoke a dripping sergeant,  
When the time was growing late,  
'Would you please to bury this one,  
'Cause 'e used to be my mate?'

So we groped our way in darkness  
To a body lying there,  
Just a blacker lump of blackness,  
With a red blotch on his hair.

Though we turned him gently over,  
Yet I still can hear the thud,  
As the body fell face forward,  
And then settled in the mud.

We went down upon our faces,  
And I said the service through,  
From 'I am the Resurrection'  
To the last, the great 'adieu.'

We stood up to give the Blessing,  
And commend him to the Lord,  
When a sudden light shot soaring  
Silver swift and like a sword.

At a stroke it slew the darkness,  
Flashed its glory on the mud,  
And I saw the sergeant staring  
At a crimson clot of blood.

There are many kinds of sorrow  
In this world of Love and Hate,  
But there is no sterner sorrow  
Than a soldier's for his mate.

## AT A SEANCE

‘ Is this so well-known voice  
That speaks  
Just as he used to do of yore,  
With just that turning of the words,  
Is it some trick of my sub-conscious self  
And nothing more,  
Or is it truth,  
That from some other world  
My love is knocking at the door ?

‘ I could have sworn it was his voice  
That spoke, it woke  
So many sweet responsive echoes  
In my soul,  
And stole across my senses  
As his voice was wont to do  
In thrills of golden joy.

‘ And yet, and yet  
It may be that I can’t forget  
Because he lives in me,  
And through and through  
My soul is drenched with his,  
And memory  
Plays some wild jest.

' Dear God, wouldst Thou permit  
    So vile a lie  
To trick a poor forsaken heart,  
    And break the rest,  
The troubled rest,  
    That time allows me from my grief ?  
But why should this be viler  
    Than the million lies  
That lure men to destruction every day ?  
    So many stars are lit  
Up in the sky  
    That lead men nowhere  
But to some grey  
    Dawn of sorrow and a barren shore,  
Where nought remains of their dead dream  
    But an exceeding bitter cry,  
And that cry's echo, " Nevermore. "'



## HIGH AND LIFTED UP

SEATED on the throne of power with the sceptre in  
Thine hand,  
While a host of eager angels ready for Thy Service  
stand,  
So it was the prophet saw Thee, in his agony of  
prayer,  
While the sound of many waters swelled in music  
on the air,  
Swelled until it burst like thunder in a shout of  
perfect praise,  
'Holy, Holy, Holy, Father Potentate of years and  
days.  
Thine the Kingdom, Thine the glory, Thine the  
splendour of the sun,  
Thine the Wisdom, Thine the honour, Thine the  
crown of victory won.'  
So it was the prophet saw Thee, so this artist saw  
Thee too,  
Flung his vision into colour mystery of gold and  
blue.  
But I stand in woe and wonder ; God, my God, I  
cannot see,  
Darkness deep and deeper darkness—all the world  
is dark to me.

Where is Power ? Where is Glory ? Where is any  
victory won ?  
Where is wisdom ? Where is honour ? Where the  
splendour of the sun ?  
God, I hate this splendid vision—all its splendour  
is a lie,  
Splendid fools see splendid folly, splendid mirage  
born to die.  
As imaginary waters to an agony of thirst,  
As the vision of a banquet to a body hunger-cursed,  
As the thought of anæsthetic to a soldier mad with  
pain,  
While his torn and tortured body turns and twists  
and writhes again,  
So this splendid lying vision turns within my  
doubting heart,  
Like a bit of rusty bayonet in a torn and festering  
part.  
Preachers give it me for comfort, and I curse them  
to their face,  
Puny, petty-minded priestlings prate to me of  
power and grace ;  
Prate of power and boundless wisdom that takes  
count of little birds,  
Sentimental poisoned sugar in a sickening stream  
of words.

Platitudinously pious far beyond all doubts and  
fears,  
They will patter of God's mercy that can wipe  
away our tears.  
All their speech is drowned in sobbing, and I hear  
the great world groan,  
As I see a million mothers sitting weeping all  
alone,  
See a host of English maidens making pictures in  
the fire,  
While a host of broken bodies quiver still on German  
wire.  
And I hate the God of Power on His hellish heavenly  
throne,  
Looking down on rape and murder, hearing little  
children moan.  
Though a million angels hail Thee King of Kings,  
yet cannot I.  
There is nought can break the silence of my sorrow  
save the cry  
'Thou who rul'st this world of sinners with Thy  
heavy iron rod,  
'Was there ever any sinner who has sinned the sin  
of God ?  
'Was there ever any dastard who would stand and  
watch a Hun

‘ Ram his bayonet through the bowels of a baby  
just for fun ?

‘ Praise to God in Heaven’s highest and in all the  
depths be praise,

‘ Who in all His works is brutal, like a beast in all  
His ways.’

God, the God I love and worship, reigns in sorrow  
on the Tree,

Broken, bleeding, but unconquered, very God of  
God to me.

All that showy pomp of splendour, all that sheen of  
angel wings,

Was but borrowed from the baubles that surround  
our earthly kings.

Thought is weak and speech is weaker, and the vision  
that He sees

Strikes with dumbness any preacher, brings him  
humbly to his knees.

But the word that Thou hast spoken borrows nought  
from kings and thrones,

Vain to rack a royal palace for the echo of Thy  
tones.

In a manger, in a cottage, in an honest workman’s  
shed,

In the homes of humble peasants, and the simple  
lives they led,

In the life of one an outcast and a vagabond on  
earth,  
In the common things He valued, and proclaimed  
of priceless worth,  
And above all in the horror of the cruel death He  
died,  
Thou hast bid us seek Thy glory, in a criminal  
crucified.  
And we find it—for Thy glory is the glory of Love's  
loss,  
And Thou hast no other splendour but the splen-  
dour of the Cross.  
For in Christ I see the martyrs and the beauty of  
their pain,  
And in Him I hear the promise that my dead shall  
rise again.  
High and lifted up, I see Him on the eternal Calvary,  
And two piercèd hands are stretching east and west  
o'er land and sea.  
On my knees I fall and worship that great Cross  
that shines above,  
For the very God of Heaven is not Power, but  
Power of Love.

SET YOUR AFFECTIONS ON THINGS  
ABOVE

How far above the things of earth  
Is Christ at God's right hand ?  
How far above yon snowy peaks  
Do His white angels stand ?

Must we fare forth to seek a world  
Beyond that silent star ?  
Forsake these dear familiar homes  
And climb the heights—How far ?

As far as meaning is from speech,  
As beauty from a rose,  
As far as music is from sound,  
As poetry from prose,

As far as art from cleverness,  
As painting is from paints,  
As far as signs from sacraments,  
As Pharisees from Saints,

As far as love from friendship is,  
As reason is from Truth,

As far as laughter is from joy,  
And early years from youth,

As far as love from shining eyes,  
As passion from a kiss,  
So far is God from God's green earth,  
So far that world from this.

## ONLY ENGAGED

I CAN hear their voices singing as the train steams  
slowly out,  
I can see their faces still through mists of tears ;  
I can see brown hands still waving as I wrench my  
soul about,  
To the weary days that lengthen into years.

I can see two eyes that soften as they seek to fathom  
mine,  
I can see two strong lips trembling to a smile,  
I can see a dear face lighten with a human love  
divine,  
And sweet mem'ries bear my burden for a while.

Then a downy head comes seeking for the pillow  
of my breast,  
And a gleeful voice calls chuckling for its Dad,  
And with two small arms around it my soul sinks  
back to rest,  
Singing nonsense to the child we never had.



## HUMILITY

FAINT on the far horizon  
Flashes a single sail,  
Faint as the mystic glory  
That shone on the Holy Grail.

Nearer it comes and nearer,  
Bearing my Love to me,  
Safe on the swelling bosom  
Of a diamond-spangled sea.

Father, I am not worthy  
That Thou shouldst give me this,  
Touch me and make me able  
For Passion's burning bliss.

Take from Thy golden Altar  
One living fiery coal,  
Welcome the pain it gives me,  
Touch me and make me whole.

## NON ANGLI SED ANGELI

‘ NOT Angles merely but of angel stock,  
These boys blue-eyed and shining from the sea,  
Which like a silver girdle belts their home.  
Not slaves but souls, not tools to use,  
But men to love and lead and save for God  
Who made them ; and for that great King who  
died

The death of shame and glory on the Cross.’  
So spake the master Christian of the world  
Long years ago when, in the streets of Rome  
Imperial, he met the ancestors  
Of that yet greater Rome which was to be.  
So spake he, taught by Him to whose great soul  
There were no slaves nor chattels in the world  
But only men and brothers, Sons of God,  
The last and greatest works of wondrous Love,  
From whose eternal energy of pain  
The greatest and the least of things is sprung.  
So spake he, taught by Him who mirrored forth  
To men’s blind eyes that Love divine of God,  
Who, like a father, mourns the one lost son,  
And, like a faithful shepherd, wanders wide  
Across the hills, and calls through dawnless dark  
The one lost sheep that strays forth from the fold.

Christ lived in him, and he had learned full well  
The first and chiefest lesson of His life,  
The value of a man to God, the price  
God puts on human souls, the price of blood  
And pain paid out in coin of Calvary.  
And in that blazing light of Love he saw  
The sin of slavery, the sin supreme,  
That slays the world because it values life  
As death, and dares to use as mere machines,  
For pleasure or for profit, living men.  
This blasphemy against the Holy Ghost,  
Which, neither in this world nor in the next,  
Can find forgiveness in the heart of God,  
Who only knows the value of a man,  
He saw it with the eyes of Christ, and spoke  
In all unconscious prophecy, the doom  
Of slavery, which these same blue-eyed boys  
Would one day die to banish from the world.  
And I have seen them die in these last days :  
Yes, I have seen their bright blue eyes grow dim  
With agony, yet never lose their smile,  
The dauntless smile of Angels that reveals  
Their angel souls, and crowns them Kings by right,  
The destined saviours of the world from sin,  
And from the curse of tyranny which kills  
The souls of men, and turns them into slaves.

Yes, I have seen them smile at death, and known,  
By instinct of sure prophecy, the Truth  
That seas of dead tyrannic force would break  
In vain against the rock of British hearts,  
Whereon the love of freedom sits enthroned.  
This have I known, and have with tears rejoiced,  
Until there shivered through me like the sudden  
chill

Of death, the fear lest gold be strong where steel  
Is weak and helpless, lest those who can't  
Be conquered may be bought and sold for gain.  
The day of tyrant kings is dead, and thrones  
Shall nevermore dethrone men's souls. But now  
A dull inhuman monster takes their place.  
The minotaur of Mammon tears the wings  
From fluttering souls and flings them bleeding  
To dogs of greed and lust. To him they are  
Dead hands, machines that make machines, and  
grind

Out gold to swell the coffers of the rich.  
They have no right to fly, their wings are best  
Cut short, that so their hands may be more strong  
To work, make wealth, build up the State, and set  
The Commonwealth on sure foundations, made  
Of gold and silver and of precious stones.  
To him a man is of less value than

A beast of burden, for the beast must needs  
Be bought for gold, and if he dies be bought  
Again, but men need not be bought ; they are  
Machines for hire that can be scrapped at will,  
And new ones hired with no fresh cost at all,  
Because they die or weaken in their work.  
Supply is plentiful, and men are drugs  
Upon the crowded markets of the world.  
So Satan takes new forms, and when he finds  
The sword is weak, too weak to win brave hearts  
As slaves, creeps snakelike in in time of Peace  
To fetter free-born men with golden chains  
And lead them helpless captives down to hell.  
O England, when this wave of war is spent,  
And rolls back baffled from thy rocky breast,  
Wilt thou be strong to slay the Minotaur,  
And strangle that great golden snake that crept  
In time of Peace about thy home to kill,  
With venom of low greed and lust of wealth,  
The soul of Freedom and the heart of Love ?  
Shall wealth still grow, and woe increase to breed  
In filthy slums the slaves of poverty ?  
Shall senseless pride and vulgar luxury  
By gilding over evil make it good ?  
Shall souls be only hands again, dead hands,  
That toil for wealth that makes none rich save those

Who need it not ? Shall men still seek in drink  
A refuge from the burden of their strife,  
And from that dull monotony of grey  
That shadows half our cities from the sun ?  
Shall women still be bought and sold like dogs  
Upon the streets because the wage they earn  
By work will not keep bodies for their souls ?  
Shall children come to birth, too weak to live,  
Not even hands of strength, but feeble hands,  
That clutch at life and die—just born to die  
And cry—cry shame upon the grimy world  
That murdered them ? If this be what must come,  
Then Blessed are the dead who die in war,  
Their bodies shattered, but their souls untouched  
By slime of sin, unpoisoned by the snake.  
For war is kinder than a Godless peace.  
O England, let this message from the past  
Ring down the ages like a trumpet call,  
Not Angels these but Angels, souls not slaves.  
Let Thy wealth be counted not in sov'reigns  
But in souls—men and women strong in mind  
And body, in children's love and laughter,  
And in those happy aged ones who stand  
Between the seas of life, and, looking back  
And forwards, vow that human life is good.  
So must our land be reckoned rich or poor.

## DEATH

If death be just a last long sleep  
Then death were good, men say,  
Yet say it knowing nought of sleep  
Save light at dawn of day.

For sleep 's a blank—a nothingness,  
A thing we cannot know,  
We can but taste the streams of life  
That from its fountain flow.

When day puts off her gorgeous robes,  
And darkness veils our sight,  
Lest we should see her beauty laid  
Upon the couch of night,

We crave for sleep because we hold  
A memory of morn,  
The rush of life renewed that with  
The birth of day is born.

So weary souls that crave for death,  
As sweet and dreamless sleep,  
As night when men may cease to war,  
And women cease to weep,

Are longing not for death, but life ;  
They crave the triumph tryst  
That God has made all souls to keep  
At dawn of day with Christ.



## TREES

ONCE glistering green,  
With dewy sheen,  
And summer glory round them cast :  
Now black and bare,  
The trees stand there,  
And mourn their beauty that is past.

Look, leaf by leaf,  
Each leaf a grief.  
The hand of Autumn strips them bare.  
No sound nor cry,  
As they fall and die,  
Because they know that Life is there.

So stiff and strong,  
The winter long,  
All uncomplaining stand the trees.  
God make my life,  
Through all its strife,  
As true to Spring as one of these.

So would I stand,  
Serene and grand,  
While age strips off the joys of youth ;

Because I know  
That, as they go,  
My soul draws nearer to the Truth.

He is the Truth,  
In very sooth,  
The Word made flesh, who dwelt with men,  
And the world shall ring  
With the song of Spring  
When thy soul turns to its Lord again.

When God's soft breath,  
That men call death,  
Falls gently on thy closing eyes,  
Thy youth, that goes  
Like the red June rose,  
Shall burst to bloom in Paradise.

## AT THE EUCHARIST

How through this Sacrament of simple things  
The great God burns His way,  
I know not—, He is there.  
The silent air  
Is pulsing with the presence of His grace,  
Almost I feel a face  
Bend o'er me as I kneel,  
While on my ears there steal  
The strains of 'Agnus Dei' softly sung.  
How it calls—calls Heaven to earth,  
Calls Christ to birth,  
And pleads for man's Redemption  
With His God.  
Here star and sod  
Unite to sing their Maker's praise,  
While, through the windows, broken rays  
Of crimson sunlight make a path  
For Him to tread.  
Just common bread.  
The artist's colour blazing bright,  
The subtle scheme of shade and light,  
That thrills our souls to ecstasy,  
Is bread.  
The notes that wed,

And weave a wonderland of sound,  
Wherein our hearts may wander round,  
And reach the heart of God's red rose,  
Where beauty dwells alone and grows  
Sublime in solitude,  
All these are bread.  
Are they not born of earth and rain ?  
Becoming tissue of man's brain,  
The vehicle of every thought,  
The Spirit that our God bestows,  
The mystery that loves and knows,  
The very soul our Saviour bought  
Speaks through a body born of bread ;  
And wine,  
The clinging vine  
That climbs some crumbled wall in France,  
Drinks in the Love of God,  
His precious Blood,  
Poured out in beams that dance  
Through long-drawn summer days,  
Swift golden rays of sunshine,  
That are stored within the grape  
Until it swells  
And spills their splendour  
Into wine  
To fill the chalice of the Lord

Then earth and heaven entertwine ;  
The Word  
Takes Flesh and dwells with men,  
And once again  
Dim eyes may see  
His gentle glory shine,  
The glory of humility,  
Which in creation stoops to raise,  
Through time's eternity of days,  
Our weakness to His strength,  
For neither length,  
Nor breadth nor depth nor height,  
Stays now the piercing of that light  
Of omnipresent Love,  
It runs red fire through our veins,  
The Life divine,  
In common wine,  
Thrills through the matter of our brains  
Begetting dreams,  
And gleams  
Of God—swift golden speech,  
And charity that burns to reach  
The very depths of hell,  
And lift them up to Christ,  
Who has our thirsty souls sufficed,  
Till they are drunk with God.

## JUDGMENT

‘ There is mercy with Thee, therefore shalt Thou be feared.’

I SAW no thronged angelic court, I saw no great  
white throne,

I saw no open Judgment books, I seemed to stand  
alone.

I seemed to stand alone beside a solemn sounding  
sea,

While, at my feet upon the shore, broke waves of  
memory.

Their murmuring music sobbed and sought a way  
into my soul,

The perfect past was present there, and I could see  
it whole,

Its beauty and its ugliness, its sorrow and its sin,  
Its splendour and its sordidness, as wave on wave  
rolled in.

And ever deeper pierced the pain of all that I had  
lost,

My dear dead dreams of perfect things, I saw them  
tempest-tossed.

They fell like wreckage at my feet, and, as I turned  
them o’er,

The solemn waves, in Memory’s caves, kept boom-  
ing ‘ Nevermore !’

There came one dream, more dear than all, a corpse  
without a head,  
The flying spray hissed cowardice, and it was dead,  
cold dead.  
Then suddenly a shadow fell, and I was not alone,  
*He* stood with me beside the sea, and listened to its  
moan.  
I did not dare to raise my eyes, I feared what I might  
see,  
A cold sweat broke and bathed my brow, I longed  
to turn and flee,  
But could not; rooted there I stood, in shiv'ring  
shame and fear,  
The subtle shadow substance took, and nearer came,  
and near.  
O was it days or was it years, we stood beside that sea,  
Or was it æons, timeless times? It seemed  
eternity.  
At last, compelled, I raised my eyes. Two eyes  
looked into mine,  
And shattered all my soul with shame, so sad and  
so divine.  
It palsied all my pride with pain, the terror of  
those tears,  
And wrought into my soul the woe of all my wasted  
years.

‘ Depart from me,’ I cried, ‘ depart, I cannot stand  
with Thee  
And face the sorrow of those eyes, beside this cruel  
sea.  
Depart from me, I dare not tread the sands those  
feet have trod,  
Nor look into those eyes that tell the agony of God.  
For there is written all the tale of my soul’s trait’rous  
tryst,  
The sordidness of sin that seared the splendid eyes  
of Christ.  
Depart,’ I cried, and He was gone. I stood there  
all alone,  
In silence save that Memory’s sea still made per-  
petual moan.  
Night shadowed all, and wandering winds came  
wailing from afar,  
But out across the darkening sea shone forth one  
single star.



## MY PEACE I GIVE UNTO YOU

BLESSED are the eyes that see  
The things that you have seen,  
Blessed are the feet that walk  
The ways where you have been.

Blessed are the eyes that see  
The Agony of God,  
Blessed are the feet that tread  
The paths His feet have trod.

Blessed are the souls that solve  
The paradox of Pain,  
And find the path that piercing it  
Leads through to Peace again.

## EASTER

THERE was rapture of spring in the morning  
When we told our love in the wood,  
For you were the spring in my heart, dear lad,  
And I vowed that my life was good.

But there 's winter of war in the evening,  
And lowering clouds overhead,  
There 's wailing of wind in the chimney nook,  
And I vow that my life lies dead.

For the sun may shine on the meadow lands,  
And the dog-rose bloom in the lanes,  
But I 've only weeds in my garden, lad,  
Wild weeds that are rank with the rains.

One solace there is for me, sweet but faint,  
As it floats on the wind of the years,  
A whisper that spring is the last true thing,  
And that triumph is born of tears.

It comes from a garden of other days,  
And an echoing voice that cries,  
' Behold I am alive for evermore,  
And in Me shall the dead arise.'

## RIGHT IS MIGHT

AN yes, I know full well, this is,  
It has to be, the end of things.  
But would to God it were not so,  
And we could live eternally,  
As we lived that one last moment,  
When you lay within my arms.  
I never lived before, dear heart.  
But that, alas ! can never be,  
It must be just a golden flash,  
Like blooms that for a day adorn  
The many-splendoured garb of God,  
Then fading, fall to rot and die,  
Returning, like poor ravished maids  
To Mother Earth, so coldly kind.  
So must this moment of our lives,  
Wherein their meaning has found bloom,  
Be swallowed in that waste of years,  
In which we do not live, but drift,  
Drift outward with the tide of time,  
To that dark land which no man knows.  
It must be so. But why, dear, why ?  
Why should we not make permanent  
That paradisiac moment of the past ?  
One movement, just a sign from you,  
And once again our paradise

Would fold us both in such embrace  
Of purest bliss, that conscience care  
Could not pierce through to wound and maim.  
Why then should we stand thus, ashamed,  
With frightened eyes, like children caught  
In some too sweet forbidden play ?  
Come, child, be brave, and take what 's yours  
For less than asking. Raise your eyes,  
One glance from them and heaven 's ours.  
What, downcast still ? A miracle.  
What is there stands 'twixt you and me ?  
What can there be so strong that it  
Avails to keep those eyes downcast,  
Wherein I saw, a moment back,  
The lamps of love gleam passionate ?  
'Tis God,' you say. Then cursed be God  
Who blights the beauty that I saw,  
As though in this drab dreary world  
Such beauty were a common thing,  
And human souls were not half-starved  
And stunted by the lack of that  
Which gleamed in glory from your eyes.  
Curse God who makes the Lily die,  
And rapes its beauty from the rose,  
Who bids the sunset flame and fade,  
And overburdens life with death.

Who gives our hearts enough to make  
Us long for more, then takes away  
The little that we have. Who turns  
Our sweetest passions into pains,  
And will not give us even Peace,  
Not even Peace in death, for we  
Are tortured by our dream that death  
Is dawn of immortality.  
These endless ever ending joys,  
Whose aching beauty contradicts  
The desperate hope of death they teach,  
Still lure us on into the mist,  
Where Truth abides. If Truth there be.  
I know. 'Tis madness. Wind and words.  
A sod defies its God. Poor fool !  
I do but hurl myself, my soul,  
In futile fury 'gainst a wall  
Immovable, not built with hands.  
There must be Truth, since you are True.  
This beauty dies at birth because  
It is not Right. O Power of Right,  
That Thou shouldst meet and conquer might  
Is but a little thing ; thy strength  
Is only fully shown when Thou  
Dost meet and conquer Love like mine.  
Farewell, sweet soul of mine, farewell.

## MAN'S SOUL

THE Great God stooped to save my soul  
And lift it up to Paradise,  
But something bound it still to earth,  
A careless woman's eyes.

Then Satan came to damn my soul,  
And drag it down to his own place,  
But something bound it still to earth,  
Another woman's face.

## A SONG OF THE DESERT

On the Hindenburg Line, 1918

I've sung my songs of battlefields,  
Of sacrifice and pain,  
When all my soul was fain to sing  
Of sunshine and of rain.

Of dewdrops glist'ning on a rose,  
Cloud castles in blue skies,  
Of glory as God's summer grows,  
And splendour as it dies.

Of blossom snowed upon the trees,  
And fresh green woods that ring  
With music of the mating birds,  
Love's miracle of spring.

Of summer night in velvet robes,  
Bedecked with silver stars,  
The captive beauty of the dawn  
That breaks her prison bars.

Of carpets weft by falling leaves  
That sing beneath my feet  
The swan song of the autumn days  
So short, so sad, so sweet.

An exile in a weary land,  
My soul sighs for release,  
It wanders in war's wilderness,  
And cries for Peace—for Peace.



## COME UNTO ME

A Shell-hole Meditation

COME unto Me, He said,  
And I will give you rest.  
Dear Lord, is that the best  
That Thou canst give  
To those who follow Thee,  
To stand and see  
The strife,  
The everlasting war of Life,  
Pass by as in a picture or a dream ?  
It is not thus I deem  
Life should be lived ;  
It is not that I crave,  
Not Rest, but strength to save  
The wounded and console their pain,  
To strive with evil and then strive again,  
Until the far-off victory is won.  
Not rest from life,  
But strength for strife,  
A strife unending till its task is done.  
    That is my quest  
    Dear Lord, not Rest.  
Not rest but strength,  
Thy strength, O God, I seek,

For I am weak,  
My spirit 's weak,  
My flesh is weaker still,  
My body plays the traitor to my will,  
And fails me at my need,  
As though some fate decreed  
That I should never be  
The man I long to be,  
Or see  
The very vision that I seek.  
And when my spirit 's feign to fill  
The measure of my manhood still,  
I fail,  
And, like the Holy Grail,  
The Vision shines on yet ahead  
And calls me on.  
And I must tread  
Where it has led  
However rough the road may be.  
There may be rest for Thee  
My God, but not for me.  
For I must fight :  
It is not right  
That I should cease,  
And rest in Peace,  
A Peace my soul has never won.

My task can ne'er be done  
Till I have found perfection at the least :  
'Tis Thou hast made me so,  
'Tis Thou must surely know  
The sources of the strength I crave  
To seek, to help, to save  
The wandering and restore the lost,  
Bring back to shore the tempest-tossed  
And set their hungry bodies down to feast.  
Give me, O Lord, a soldier's rest  
Who lies uneasy on the crest  
Of some bare shell-swept hill,  
And with the earth for pillow waits until  
The dawn of battle breaks,  
Then for his country's and his children's sakes  
Goes forth to death,  
While all around him heaves and quakes  
The torn and battered earth  
And battle belches poison breath,  
For in his soul finds birth  
The Better Rest,  
Which comes of Trust in one who leads,  
Great joy in gallant knightly deeds,  
And Love of that great cause for which he  
    fights.  
Oh, I have seen such sights

As make me long to know  
The secret of that Rest  
Which gives men strength  
To suffer and endure the length  
Of endless misery that war entails ;  
    For that were best  
To take that strength  
And use it not to slay but sow  
The seed of better worlds to be ;  
To use it not to kill  
But rather fill  
Men full of finer life,  
The life that never fails ;  
To open their blind eyes  
And make them see  
The Vision of the Highest as He is,  
    To seek and find the better way  
    By which men go forth not to slay  
But save men from their miseries.  
    O God, is hate more strong than  
    Love,  
    And is the life that 's born above  
So weak that it can only wail  
The wreckage that strong hatred makes ?  
It shakes the earth,  
And men's hearts fail

For fear of what it brings to birth,  
The horror of great darkness—blood—and pain.

Again—again

I see the proof that hate is strong

And Love is weak ;

The opposite of what I seek

Is round me everywhere,

To give the lie to all my dreams.

If life be what it seems,

A slaughter-house and not a school,

An eldorado where a fool

Is suffered to play havoc at his will,

Can there be rest ?

Still—still

The endless, aimless struggle must go on,

And men, pale, haggard, wounded, wan,

Must stagger on to die,

And where they fall must lie

Unburied for the maggots and the flies,

Those hosts of flies ;

And the cries

Of men in agony

Must insult the summer skies,

And all the beauty of the world with doubt,

Black doubt that God,

Who shows benign in star and sod,

Is just a fiend of boundless cruelty,  
    A demon in an angel's dress  
    Who makes the world a wilderness  
For His wild sport,  
And laughs to see men caught  
And torn to pieces in the meshes of His net :  
    A God without regret,  
Or bowels of compassion like a man.  
    That doubt destroys all rest ;  
    It makes men weak,  
    It bids them seek  
    No longer—what is best,  
But gather from the ruin what they can.  
It starves the soul to selfishness  
And bitter blank despair,  
It taints the very air  
    We breathe as do the dead,  
    And all that we have read  
    Of God in Christ seems lies,  
    It makes us cynics,  
And lays bare our souls for flies  
    To fatten on—for lustings  
    That wax gross and foul,  
Like those great super-flies that buzz and prowl  
About the long unburied carcase on the field.  
    We are but weak, and yield

Our best to their foul lips,  
Our faith in Pity and our trust in Love  
Doubt comes and grips  
Them by the throat and leaves them  
dead.

The world seems red—blood red :  
How can we rest ?  
Come unto Me, He said.

How can we come ? 'Tis dark,  
So dark, the day has fled  
And left a bloody trail back in the West.  
The way to Rest  
Is faint and hard to find,  
Like those dim tracks that wind  
Across a dreary battlefield at night.  
Men travel round in circles and get lost,  
Come back to where two tracks had  
crossed

An hour ago,  
And so  
In weary circles wend their way  
Still longing for the light,  
Still calling in the night  
To comrades wandering hopeless like them-  
selves,

Dim shapes that loom up sudden in the  
dark,  
And stand out black and stark  
Against the sky.  
They cry  
For guidance,  
And perchance one thinks he knows  
And goes,  
Blind leader of the blind,  
Down yet another track,  
Which doubles and turns back  
To where he started from,  
And leaves the band of wanderers in the night.  
Such is our plight  
Who search for Thee  
Across the bloody battlefields of Life.

Come unto Me :  
It sounds like mockery,  
A voice that calls a wounded man  
Across a weary space  
He cannot travel o'er ;  
For we would come to Thee,  
We long to see Thy face,  
But we are wounded sore,  
And evermore



Our weakness binds us,  
Darkness blinds us,  
We stretch our hands out vainly toward the  
    shore,  
Where Thou art waiting for Thine own.  
We groan, and try, and fail again,  
We cannot come—we are but men.  
Come Thou to us, O Lord.  
Come Thou and find us.  
Shepherd of the sheep  
We cannot come to Thee.  
It is so dark.  
    But hark,  
I hear a voice that sounds across the sea,  
    ‘ I come.’

## TWO WORLDS

IN the valleys down below,  
Where the fairest flowers blow,  
And the brook runs babbling nonsense to the  
    sea,  
Underneath the shady trees,  
We two sauntered at our ease,  
Just a pleasant little world for you and me.

Then the summons of the Lord,  
Like a sudden silver sword,  
Came and cut our little pleasant world in two,  
    One fierce world of strife and hate,  
    One sad world where women wait,  
And we wander far apart, dear, I and you.

And it may be, with this breath,  
There will come the call of death,  
And will put another world 'twixt you and me.  
    You will stand with God above,  
    I will stand 'twixt pride and Love,  
Looking out through mists of sorrow o'er the  
    sea.

For the world in God is one,  
And when all our strife is done,  
There will dawn the perfect world for you and me,  
When we two together stand,  
Looking upwards, hand in hand,  
Where the fires of Love have burned up ev'ry sea.

## WAIT

SILVER clouds and a flying moon,  
Wail, ye winds, to the reapers' tune  
    For the dead white face upturned,  
Two grey eyes, all dim with tears,  
Bleak, how bleak are the barren years,  
    When the fires of love are burned.  
Two brave souls, and the great white King.  
The end and the aim of everything  
    Is the Peace of God well earned.

## PARADISE

WHEN machine guns start to play  
At the ending of the day,  
And the sun's last burning ray  
    Bleeds and dies ;  
When the sable warp of night  
Is first cleft by silver light,  
With its sudden curving flight  
    Of surprise :  
It is then that England calls  
From its cottages and halls,  
And we think of four dear walls  
    And her eyes,  
When the children's prayer is said,  
And they lie tucked up in bed,  
And the fire is burning red,—  
    Paradise.

## ETERNAL HOPE

CAN the Father in His Justice burn in Everlasting  
flame

Souls that sunk in foulest squalor never knew the  
Father's Name ?

Can the Love of man be greater than Eternal Love  
divine ?

Can the heart of God be harder than this hardened  
heart of mine ?

Can the pangs of Hell be endless, void of object,  
void of gain,

Save to pay for years of sorrow with Eternity of  
Pain ?

Cursèd be the foul contortion, that hath turned His  
Love to Hate,

That hath cried at death's dim portal, 'Enter here,'  
and "'Tis too late.'

Cruel pride and vain presumption claim to grasp  
where angels grope ;

'Tis not God but mean man blindness dims the  
deathless star of Hope.

## DEAD AND BURIED

I HAVE borne my cross through Flanders,  
Through the broken heart of France,  
I have borne it through the deserts of the East ;  
I have wandered, faint and longing,  
Through the human hosts that, thronging,  
Swarmed to glut their grinning idols with a feast.

I was crucified in Cambrai,  
And again outside Bapaume ;  
I was scourged for miles along the Albert Road,  
I was driven, pierced and bleeding,  
With a million maggots feeding  
On the body that I carried as my load.

I have craved a cup of water,  
Just a drop to quench my thirst,  
As the routed armies ran to keep the pace ;  
But no soldier made reply  
As the maddened host swept by,  
And a sweating straggler kicked me in the face.

There 's no ecstasy of torture  
That the devils e'er devised,  
That my soul has not endured unto the last ;

As I bore my cross of sorrow,  
For the glory of to-morrow,  
Through the wilderness of battles that is past.

Yet my heart was still unbroken,  
And my hope was still unquenched,  
Till I bore my cross to Paris through the crowd.  
Soldiers pierced me on the Aisne,  
But 'twas by the river Seine  
That the statesmen brake my legs and made my  
shroud.

There they wrapped my mangled body  
In fine linen of fair words,  
With the perfume of a sweetly scented lie,  
And they laid it in the tomb  
Of the golden-mirrored room,  
'Mid the many-fountained Garden of Versailles.

With a thousand scraps of paper  
They made fast the open door,  
And the wise men of the Council saw it sealed.  
With the seal of subtle lying  
They made certain of my dying,  
Lest the torment of the peoples should be healed.



Then they set a guard of soldiers  
Night and day beside the Tomb,  
Where the Body of the Prince of Peace is laid,  
And the captains of the nations  
Keep the sentries to their stations,  
Lest the statesman's trust from Satan be betrayed.

For it isn't steel and iron  
That men use to kill their God,  
But the poison of a smooth and slimy tongue.  
Steel and iron tear the body,  
But it's oily sham and shoddy  
That have trampled down God's *Spirit* in the dung.

## DEMOBILISED

Out through its curtain of dark blue mist,  
Glittering gold where the sun has kissed,  
Out till it reaches the shining sea,  
Stretches the land that is home to me ;  
Valley and hillock and wooded copse,  
Promise of wealth in the fresh green crops.  
Mother of Mothers that gave me birth,  
Bone of my bone is thy rich red earth,  
Flesh of my flesh is thy land to me,  
The land that ends in the shining sea.

Mother, I come from a wounded land,  
Where the earth is torn and the poor trees  
stand  
Like naked masts, black—stiff—and stark,  
Over the grave of some gallant bark ;  
Where peasant's cottage and nobles' halls  
Are heaps of brick or the four bare walls,  
With lonely graves in a maze of wire,  
Where stood the church with its peaceful  
spire.  
Out of the ruin I come to thee,  
Hail, Mother mine, by the shining sea.

Dear to me ever thy country-side,  
But dearer now for the men who died,  
Robbed of the richest of youth's long years,  
Steeling their hearts to a mother's tears,  
Fighting their way through a thousand hells,  
Bearing a cross like a cap and bells,  
Jeering at death as a last good joke.  
My thanks go up with the thin blue smoke,  
Marking the cottage that 's home to me,  
In the dear safe land by the shining sea.

## IF YE FORGET

LET me forget—Let me forget,  
I am weary of remembrance,  
And my brow is ever wet  
With the tears of my remembrance,  
With the tears and bloody sweat,  
Let me forget.

If ye forget—If ye forget,  
Then your children must remember,  
And their brow be ever wet  
With the tears of their remembrance,  
With the tears and bloody sweat,  
If ye forget.

## AT A HARVEST FESTIVAL

Not here for high and holy things  
We render thanks to Thee,  
But for the common things of earth,  
The purple pageantry  
Of dawning and of dying days,  
The splendour of the sea,

The royal robes of autumn moors,  
The golden gates of spring,  
The velvet of soft summer nights,  
The silver glistening :  
Of all the million million stars,  
The silent song they sing,

Of Faith and Hope and Love undimmed,  
Undying still through death,  
The Resurrection of the world,  
What time there comes the breath  
Of dawn that rustles through the trees,  
And that clear voice that saith :

‘ Awake, awake to love and work,  
The lark is in the sky,

The fields are wet with diamond dew,  
The worlds awake to cry  
Their blessings on the Lord of Life,  
As He goes meekly by.

‘Come, let thy voice be one with theirs,  
Shout with their shout of praise,  
See how the giant sun soars up,  
Great Lord of years and days,  
So let the Love of Jesus come,  
And set thy soul ablaze,

‘To give and give, and give again,  
What God has given thee,  
To spend thyself nor count the cost,  
To serve right gloriously  
The God who gave all worlds that are,  
And all that are to be.’

## SO I DREAM

NAY, I know not what I dream of,  
Yet I dream.

Though my brow be ever wet  
With the anguish and the sweat,  
There is glory coming yet,  
Where the gleam  
Leads me through the blinding mist,  
By the way my Saviour wist,  
To the shores that God has kissed,  
So I dream.

There is more behind the sunshine  
Than the sun,  
Fiercely flaming in the sky,  
As the ages dawn and die,  
Like a sneering sightless eye,  
Seeing none.

There 's a voice my spirit knows,  
In the sunset's gold and rose,  
And the purple afterglows,  
When it 's done.

There is speech behind the silence  
Of the night,

When the myriad array,  
Sweeping down the Milky Way,  
Marches on to dawning day

Silver white ;

When the velvet of the air,  
Like some lovely woman's hair,  
Drives the staring eyes of care

Out of sight.

There 's a message in the music  
Of the deep,

When great oceans' heaving swells  
Like God's big cathedral bells,  
Boom their solemn-sounding knells,

As they sweep,

In an ecstasy of pride,  
At the flowing of the tide,  
Over those who fought and died,

Fast asleep.

There is love behind the splendour  
Of the spring,

When the weary winter dies  
And the Lord with laughing eyes  
Bids the trembling world arise,

Whispering,



‘ Did ye think that God was dead ?  
Nay, my blood is warm and red,  
And there is no death to dread—  
Come and sing.’

Lord, I pray Thee give my spirit  
Eyes to see,  
Through the things of time and space,  
All the glories of Thy grace,  
The commandment of Thy face,  
Bidding me  
Follow on where Thou hast trod ;  
Though I share the grief of God,  
Give me strength to sweat my blood,  
Lord, for Thee.

## MY PEACE—I LEAVE WITH YOU

THY Peace ! Thou pale, despisèd Christ !  
What Peace is there in Thee,  
Nailed to the Cross that crowns the world,  
In agony ?

No Peace of home was Thine. No rest  
When Thy day's work was done.  
When darkness called the world to sleep  
And veiled the sun,

No children gathered round Thy knee,  
No hand soothed care away :  
Thou hadst not where to lay Thy head  
At close of day.

What Peace was Thine ? Misunderstood,  
Rejected by Thine own,  
Pacing Thy grim Gethsemane,  
Outcast and lone.

What Peace hast Thou to give the world ?  
There is enough of pain ;  
Always upon my window beats  
The sound of rain.

The source of sorrow is not dried,  
Nor stays the stream of tears,  
But winds on weeping to the sea,  
All down the years.

For millions come to Golgotha  
To suffer and to die,  
Forsaken in their hour of need,  
And asking, Why ?

Man's ' Via Crucis ' never ends,  
Earth's Calvaries increase,  
The world is full of spears and nails,  
But where is Peace ?

' Take up Thy Cross and follow Me,  
I am the Way—My Son—  
Via Crucis—Via Pacis  
Meet and are one.'

## APRIL

BREATH of Spring,  
Not come, but coming,  
In the air.  
Life of earth, not lived  
But living,  
Everywhere.  
Promises, not made,  
Nor broken,  
But the token  
Of promises that will be made.  
Sunshine seeking shade,  
Red earth, that smiles,  
And asks for seed,  
And mossy woodland paths, that lead  
To where the yellow primrose grows.  
And so for many coloured miles  
Of open smiling France,  
While noisy little streamlets dance,  
In diamond mirrored suns,  
To meet the stately Mother stream that flows,  
With shining dignity,  
To greet her Lord the sea,  
And far away, beyond the hills, one hears,  
Poor village Mother, hence thy tears,  
The muffled thunder of the guns.

‘ THE ENDING OF THE DAY ’

Toil is over,  
Scent of clover,  
Gleams with gold the western way.  
Farewell sorrow,  
Till to-morrow,  
'Tis the ending of the day.

Shyly sweetly,  
So discreetly,  
Trips she down the lovers' way.  
Darling this is  
Time for kisses,  
'Tis the ending of the day.

Silvery moonshine,  
All the world mine,  
Drink we Love's wine while we may ;  
Time is flying,  
Leaves are dying,  
'Tis the ending of the day.

Love is sweetest,  
Frailest, fleetest,  
Of the joys that will not stay ;

Kisses deeper  
Cannot keep her,  
'Tis the ending of the day.

Life is over,  
Dead the clover,  
All the world is growing grey ;  
Barren blisses,  
Colder kisses,  
'Tis the ending of the day.

## A SCRAP OF PAPER

Just a little scrap of paper  
In a yellow envelope,  
And the whole world is a ruin,  
Even Hope.

## MISSING—BELIEVED KILLED

On reading a Mother's letter

'TWERE heaven enough to fill my heart  
If only one would stay,  
Just one of all the million joys  
God gives to take away.

If I could keep one golden dawn,  
The splendour of one star,  
One silver glint of yon bird's wing  
That flashes from afar ;

If I could keep the least of things  
That make me catch my breath  
To gasp with wonder at God's world  
And hold it back from death,

It were enough ; but death forbids.  
The sunset flames to fade,  
The velvet petals of this rose  
Fall withered—brown—decayed.



She only asked to keep one thing,  
The joy light in his eyes :  
God has not even let her know  
Where his dead body lies.

O Grave, where is Thy victory ?  
O Death, where is Thy sting ?  
Thy victory is ev'rywhere,  
Thy sting 's in ev'rything.

## CHEER-I-O

HERE 's to you and here 's to me,  
Here 's to pals on land and sea,  
Here 's to Peace that is to be,  
Cheer-i-o !

Here 's to those who live and fight,  
Here 's to those gone out of sight,  
Who have fought and died for Right,  
Cheer-i-o !  
Cheer-i-o ! Cheer-i-o !

On we 'll go through weal or woe,  
On through any blinkin' show,  
Cheer-i-o !

It 's the battle-cry of God,  
As he works in star and sod,  
Beating Satan with His rod,  
Cheer-i-o !

It 's the cry that made the earth,  
Gave the rolling spheres their birth,  
Wrought a world of wondrous worth,  
Cheer-i-o !

If it comes my turn to die,  
To be outed and put by,  
May I peg out with this cry,  
Cheer-i-o !

## TO PATRICK

I GAVE thee life, my little son,  
And thou art part of me,  
Which part ? Would God I knew the Truth,  
Then were my soul set free  
From fretting fears all down the years,  
From dull anxiety.

Lest I have given thee that part,  
Which makes my angel weep,  
That underworld whence lusts and lies  
Like vermin, crawl and creep  
Across my visions and my prayers.  
Whence selfish passions leap

To slay the very thing I love,  
To crucify my Lord,  
To strangle Jesus in my soul,  
With coils of evil cord,  
And force me spit my sins upon  
The face my soul adored.

Fain would I give thee those bright wings  
On which my spirit flies,

To talk with angels on the heights,  
In solemn sweet surprise,  
And win from Him, who is the Light,  
The poet's open eyes.

## IT IS FINISHED

It is finished! It is finished! As the sun sinks  
down to rest,  
And the sky burns blood and amber in the wonder-  
weaving west,  
Where the clouds make golden islands like the  
Islands of the Blest,  
For the day is nearly done.

But another day is dawning as the wingèd darkness  
flies,  
And the silver stars keep sentry till another sun  
shall rise,  
For the daylight is eternal, and the sunshine never  
dies,  
It is always marching on.

It is finished! It is finished! For the Saviour  
crucified,  
See the soldiers stand in silence where the cruel  
crowds have cried,  
E'en the broken-hearted mother has departed from  
His side,  
For His day is nearly done.

But an empty tomb is waiting, and the East is silver  
grey,  
As the angels of the morning trumpet in another  
day,  
See the wounded God go walking down the world's  
eternal way,  
For His task is never done.

There's an army thronging round Him as He takes  
the road to-night,  
Can't you see your sons and brothers lined before  
Him left and right ?  
Can't you hear their voices calling you to join the  
host and fight  
For the God who marches on ?

## TRUTH

SUNSHINE and shadow,  
And their strife,  
Is that indeed the lot in life  
That God has meted to the sons of men ?  
Through yon gold mist,  
That God has kissed,  
And waked to greater glory than the day,  
Is that the way  
By which we climb up to the final place,  
And see God's face  
Burn through the shadows at the last ?  
It has been so,  
That much we know,  
That is the very message of man's past,  
We know in part,  
But still the heart  
Of very Truth seems far away.  
Time turns our Truth to falsehood,  
And a brighter day  
Makes evening of our morning ;  
And round us once again the shadows lie,  
And hide the sun.  
Our search is never done.  
We stumble onward toward that light,



Too bright  
For us to see unshadowed, lest we die.  
O God, if that be life,  
To take this strife,  
And keep it up unbeaten to the end,  
Then, God of mercy, send  
One ray  
Of Thine own glory light  
To touch our world to-day.  
The shadows have departed,  
And black night  
Lies brooding over all the earth,  
And hideous things find birth.  
The world brings forth abortions,  
And then weeps with bloody tears,  
Because her womb is shamed,  
Her children maimed,  
And all her home become a wilderness of sin.  
The sun is darkened,  
And the moon turned into blood,  
And down upon us sweeps a flood  
Of Lust and Cruelty.  
    God sleeps ;  
Or is He dead,  
And all that we have read  
Of His great Love a lie,

That must be buried with the others  
In the past,  
The last,—the very last,  
Sweet lie that we shall ever have,  
To keep us from despair, which is the Truth,  
The cruel Truth ?  
More Light—More Light,  
O God of Life, one Breath  
Of air  
Or else we die.  
The shadows conquer  
And we lie in darkness,  
Darkness of despair  
Which is the second death.

. . . . .

But look, the shadows weaken,  
And the sun beats through,  
'Tis True—God lives—I knew.  
I think I always knew !

## IT IS NOT FINISHED

IT is not finished, Lord.  
There is not one thing done,  
There is no battle of my life,  
That I have really won.  
And now I come to tell Thee  
How I fought to fail,  
My human, all too human, tale  
Of weakness and futility.  
And yet there is a faith in me,  
That Thou wilt find in it  
One word that Thou canst take  
And make  
The centre of a sentence  
In Thy book of poetry.  
I cannot read this writing of the years,  
My eyes are full of tears,  
It gets all blurred, and won't make sense ;  
It 's full of contradictions  
Like the scribblings of a child,  
Such wild, wild  
Hopes, and longing as intense  
As pain, which trivial deeds  
Make folly of—or worse :  
I can but hand it in, and hope

That Thy great mind, which reads  
The writings of so many lives,  
Will understand this scrawl  
And what it strives  
To say—but leaves unsaid.  
I cannot write it over,  
The stars are coming out,  
My body needs its bed.  
I have no strength for more,  
So it must stand or fall—Dear Lord—  
That 's all.

DIALECT POEMS



# THE SORROW OF GOD

A Sermon in a Billet

YES, I used to believe i' Jesus Christ,  
And I used to go to Church,  
But sin' I left 'ome and came to France,  
I 've been clean knocked off my perch.  
For it seemed orlright at 'ome, it did,  
To believe in a God above  
And in Jesus Christ 'Is only son,  
What died on the Cross through Love.  
When I went for a walk of a Sunday morn  
On a nice fine day in the spring,  
I could see the proof o' the living God  
In every living thing.  
For 'ow could the grass and the trees  
grow up,  
All along o' their bloomin' selves ?  
Ye might as well believe i' the fairy tales  
And think they was made by elves.  
So I thought as that long-'aired atheist  
Were nubbat a silly sod.  
For 'ow did 'e 'count for my brussels sprouts  
If 'e didn't believe i' God.  
But it ain't the same out 'ere, ye know,  
It 's as different as chalk fro' cheese,

For 'arf on it 's blood and t'other 'arf 's mud,  
 And I 'm damned if I really sees  
 'Ow the God, who 'as made such a cruel world,  
 Can 'ave Love in 'Is 'eart for men,  
 And be deaf to the cries of the men as dies  
 And never comes 'ome again.  
 Just look at that little boy corporal there,  
 Such a fine upstanding lad,  
 Wi' a will ov 'is own, and a way ov 'is own,  
 And a smile ov 'is own, 'e 'ad.  
 An hour ago he were bustin' wi' life,  
 Wi' 'is actin' and foolin' and fun ;  
 'E were simply the life on us all, 'e were.  
 Now look what the blighters 'a done.  
 Look at 'im lyin' there all ov a 'eap,  
 Wi' the blood soaken over 'is 'ead,  
 Like a beautiful picture spoiled by a fool,  
 A bundle o' nothin'—dead.  
 And it ain't only 'im—there 's a mother at 'ome,  
 And 'e were the pride of 'er life.  
 For it 's women as pays in a thousand ways  
 For the madness o' this 'ere strife.  
 And the lovin' God 'E looks down on it all,  
 On the blood and the mud and the smell.  
 O God, if it 's true, 'ow I pities you,  
 For ye must be livin' i' 'ell.



You must be livin' i' 'ell all day,  
And livin' i' 'ell all night.  
I 'd rather be dead, wi' a 'ole through my 'ead,  
I would, by a dam long sight,  
Than be livin' wi' you on your 'eavenly throne,  
Lookin' down on yon bloody 'eap  
That were once a boy full o' life and joy,  
And 'earin' 'is mother weep.  
The sorrows o' God mun be 'ard to bear  
If 'E really 'as Love in 'Is 'eart,  
And the 'ardest part i' the world to play  
Mun surely be God's part.  
And I wonder if that 's what it really means,  
That Figure what 'angs on the Cross.  
I remember I seed one t'other day  
As I stood wi' the captain's 'oss.  
I remember, I thinks, thinks I to mysel',  
It 's a long time since 'E died,  
Yet the world don't seem much better to-day  
Then when 'E were crucified.  
It 's allus the same, as it seems to me,  
The weakest mun go to the wall,  
And whether 'e 's right, or whether 'e 's wrong,  
It don't seem to matter at all.  
The better ye are and the 'arder it is,  
The 'arder ye 'ave to fight,

It 's a cruel 'ard world for any bloke  
    What does the thing as is right.  
And that 's 'ow 'E came to be crucified,  
    For that 's what 'E tried to do.  
'E were allus a tryin' to do 'Is best  
    For the likes o' me and you,  
Well, what if 'E came to the earth to-day,  
    Came walkin' about this trench,  
'Ow 'Is 'eart would bleed for the sights 'E seed,  
    I' the mud and the blood and the stench.  
And I guess it would finish 'Im up for good  
    When 'E came to this old sap end,  
And 'E seed that bundle o' nothin' there,  
    For 'E wept at the grave ov 'Is friend.  
And they say 'E were just the image o' God.  
    I wonder if God sheds tears,  
I wonder if God can be sorrowin' still,  
    And 'as been all these years.  
I wonder if that 's what it really means,  
    Not only that 'E once died,  
Not only that 'E came once to the earth  
    And wept and were crucified ?  
Not just that 'E suffered once for all  
    To save us from our sins,  
And then went up to 'Is throne on 'igh  
    To wait till 'Is 'eaven begins.

But what if 'E came to the earth to show,  
 By the paths o' pain that 'E trod,  
 The blistering flame of eternal shame  
 That burns in the heart o' God ?  
 O God, if that 's 'ow it really is,  
 Why, bless ye, I understands,  
 And I feels for you wi' your thorn-crowned  
     'ead  
 And your ever piercèd 'ands.  
 But why don't ye bust the show to bits,  
 And force us to do your will ?  
 Why ever should God be suffering so  
 And man be sinning still ?  
 Why don't ye make your voice ring out,  
 And drown these cursed guns ?  
 Why don't ye stand with an outstretched hand,  
 Out there 'twixt us and the 'Uns ?  
 Why don't ye force us to end the war  
 And fix up a lasting peace ?  
 Why don't ye will that the world be still  
 And wars for ever cease ?  
 That 's what I 'd do, if I was you,  
 And I had a lot of sons  
 What squabbled and fought and spoilt their  
     'ome,  
 Same as us boys and the 'Uns.

And yet, I remember, a lad o' mine,  
 'E 's fightin' now on the sea,  
 And 'e were a thorn in 'is mother's side,  
 And the plague o' my life to me.  
 Lord, 'ow I used to swish that lad  
 Till 'e fairly yelped wi' pain,  
 But fast as I thrashed one devil out  
 Another popped in again.  
 And at last, when 'e grew up a strappin'  
 lad,  
 'E ups and 'e says to me,  
 ' My will 's my own and my life 's my own,  
 And I 'm goin', Dad, to sea.'  
 And 'e went, for I 'adn't broke 'is will,  
 Though Gawd knows 'ow I tried,  
 And 'e never set eyes on my face again  
 Till the day as 'is mother died.  
 Well, maybe, that 's 'ow it is wi' God,  
 'Is sons 'ave got to be free ;  
 Their wills are their own, and their lives their  
 own,  
 And that 's 'ow it 'as to be.  
 So the Father God goes sorrowing still  
 For 'Is world what 'as gone to sea,  
 But 'E runs up a light on Calvary's 'ight  
 That beckons to you and me.

The beacon light of the sorrow of God  
 'As been shinin' down the years,  
 A flashin' its light through the darkest night  
 Of our 'uman blood and tears.  
 There's a sight o' things what I thought was  
 strange,  
 As I'm just beginnin' to see :  
 ' Inasmuch as ye did it to one of these  
 Ye 'ave done it unto Me.'  
 So it isn't just only the crown o' thorns  
 What 'as pierced and torn God's 'ead ;  
 'E knows the feel ov a bullet, too,  
 And 'E's 'ad 'Is touch o' the lead.  
 And 'E's standin' wi' me in this 'ere sap,  
 And the corporal stands wiv 'Im,  
 And the eyes of the laddie is shinin' bright,  
 But the eyes of the Christ burn dim.  
 O, laddie, I thought as ye 'd done for me  
 And broke my 'cart wi' your pain.  
 I thought as ye 'd taught me that God were  
 dead,  
 But ye 've brought 'Im to life again.  
 And ye 've taught me more of what God is  
 Than I ever thought to know,  
 For I never thought 'E could come so close  
 Or that I could love 'Im so.

For the voice of the Lord, as I 'ears it now,  
Is the voice of my pals what bled,  
And the call of my country's God to me  
Is the call of my country's dead.

## WELL ?

OUR Padre were a solemn bloke,  
We called 'im dismal Jim.  
It fairly gave ye t' bloomin' creeps,  
To sit and 'ark at 'im,  
When he were on wi' Judgment Day,  
Abaht that great white throne,  
And 'ow each chap would 'ave to stand,  
And answer on 'is own.  
And if 'e tried to charnce 'is arm,  
And 'ide a single sin,  
There 'd be the angel Gabriel,  
Wi' books to do 'im in.  
'E 'ad it all writ dahn, 'e said,  
And nothin' could be 'id,  
'E 'ad it all i' black and white,  
And 'E would take no kid ;  
And every single idle word,  
A soldier charnced to say,  
'E 'd 'ave it all thrown back at 'im,  
I' court on Judgment Day.  
Well I kep' mindin' Billy Briggs,  
A pal o' mine what died.  
'E went to 'elp our sergeant Smith,  
But as 'e reached 'is side,

There came and bust atwee: 'is legs,  
 A big Boche 5.9 pill.  
 And I picked up 'is corpril's stripes,  
 That 's all there was o' Bill.  
 I called to mind a stinkin' night  
 When we was carryin' tea.  
 We went round there by Limerick Lane,  
 And Bill was a'ead o' me.  
 'Twere rainin' 'eavens 'ard, ye know,  
 And t' boards were thick wi' muck,  
 And umpteen times we slithered dahn,  
 And got the dicksec stuck.  
 Well, when we got there by the switch,  
 A loose board tipped right up,  
 And Bill, 'e turned a somersault,  
 And dahn 'e came, and whup!  
 I 've 'eard men blind, I 've 'eard 'em cuss,  
 And I 've 'eard 'em do it 'ard,  
 Well 'aven't I 'eard our R.S.M.,  
 Inspectin' special guard.  
 But Bill, 'e left 'im standin' still,  
 'E turned the black night blue,  
 And I guess the Angel Gabriel  
 'Ad short'and work to do.  
 Well 'ow would poor old Bill go on,  
 When 'e stood all alone,



And 'ad to 'ear that tale read out  
Afore the great white throne ?  
If what our Padre says is right,  
'E 'd 'ave a rotten spell,  
And finish up ov it, I s'pose,  
'E 'd 'ave to go to 'ell.  
And yet 'e were a decent lad,  
And met a decent end ;  
You 'll never finish decenter,  
Than tryin' to 'elp a friend.  
But some'ow I can't think it 's right,  
It ain't what God would do.  
This tale of all these record books,  
I thinks it 's all napoo,  
'Twould let some rotten beggars in,  
And keep some good 'uns out,  
There 's lots of blokes, what does no wrong,  
As can't do nowt but shout.  
But t'other night I dreamed a dream,  
And, just 'twixt me and you,  
I never dreamed like that afore :  
I 'arf thinks it were true.  
I dreamed as I were dead, ye see,  
At least as I 'ad died,  
For I were very much alive,  
Out there on t'other side.

I couldn't see no judgment court,  
Nor yet that great white throne,  
I couldn't see no record books,  
I seemed to stand alone.  
I seemed to stand alone, beside  
A solemn kind o' sea,  
Its waves they got in my inside,  
And touched my memory ;  
And day by day, and year by year,  
My life came back to me.  
I see'd just what I were, and what  
I 'd 'ad the charnce to be ;  
And all the good I might 'a' done,  
An' 'adn't stopped to do.  
I see'd I 'd made an 'ash of it,  
And Gawd ! but it were true.  
A throng o' faces came and went,  
Afore me on that shore,  
My wife, and mother, kiddies, pals,  
And the face of a London whore.  
And some was sweet, and some was sad,  
And some put me to shame,  
For the dirty things I 'd done to 'em,  
When I 'adn't played the game.  
Then in the silence some one stirred,  
Like when a sick man groans,

And a kind o' shivering chill ran through  
The marrer ov my bones.  
And there before me some one stood,  
Just lookin' dahn at me,  
And still be'ind 'Im moaned and moaned  
That everlasting sea.  
I couldn't speak, I felt as though  
'E 'ad me by the throat,  
'Twere like a drownin' fellah feels,  
Last moment 'e 's afloat.  
And 'E said nowt, 'E just stood still,  
For I dunno 'ow long;  
It seemed to me like years and years,  
But time out there 's all wrong.  
'What was 'E like?' you 're askin' now.  
Can't word it anyway,  
'E just were 'Im, that 's all I knows.  
There 's things as words can't say,  
It seemed to me as though 'Is face,  
Were millions rolled in one.  
It never changed yet always changed,  
Like the sea beneath the sun.  
'Twere all men's face yet no man's face,  
And a face no man can see,  
And it seemed to say in silent speech,  
'Ye did 'em all to me.

‘ The dirty things ye did to them,  
 ‘ The filth ye thought was fine,  
 ‘ Ye did ’em all to me,’ it said,  
 ‘ For all their souls were mine.’  
 All eyes was in ’Is eyes—all eyes,  
 My wife’s and a million more,  
 And once I thought as those two eyes  
 Were the eyes of the London whore.  
 And they was sad,—My Gawd! ’ow sad,  
 With tears that seemed to shine,  
 And quivering bright wi’ the speech o’ light  
 They said, ‘ ’Er soul was mine.’  
 And then at last ’E said one word,  
 ’E just said one word—‘ Well ? ’  
 And I said in a funny voice,  
 ‘ Please can I go to ’Ell ? ’  
 And ’E stood there and looked at me,  
 And ’E kind o’ seemed to grow,  
 Till ’E shone like the sun above my ’ead,  
 And then ’E answered ‘ No  
 ‘ You can’t, that ’Ell is for the blind,  
 ‘ And not for those that see.  
 ‘ You know that you ’ave earned it, lad,  
 ‘ So you must follow me.  
 ‘ Follow me on by the paths o’ pain,  
 ‘ Seeking what you ’ave seen,

‘ Until at last you can build the “ Is ”  
‘ Wi’ the bricks o’ the “ Might ’ave been.” ’  
That ’s what ’E said, as I ’m alive,  
And that there dream were true.  
But what ’E meant,—I don’t quite know,  
Though I knows what I ’as to do.  
I ’s got to follow what I ’s seen,  
Till this old carcass dies ;  
For I daren’t face in the land o’ grace  
The sorrow ov those eyes.  
There ain’t no throne, and there ain’t no books,  
It ’s ’Im you ’ve got to see,  
It ’s ’Im, just ’Im, that is the Judge  
Of blokes like you and me.  
And boys I ’d sooner frizzle up,  
I’ the flames of a burning ’Ell,  
Than stand and look into ’Is face,  
And ’ear ’Is voice say—‘ *Well?* ’

## THE SECRET

You were askin' 'ow we sticks it,  
Sticks this blarsted rain and mud,  
'Ow it is we keeps on smilin'  
When the place runs red wi' blood.  
Since you 're askin', I can tell ye,  
And I thinks I tells ye true,  
But it ain't official, mind ye,  
It 's a tip 'twixt me and you.  
For the General thinks it 's tactics,  
And the bloomin' plans 'e makes ;  
And the C.O. thinks it 's trainin',  
And the trouble as he takes.  
Sergeant-Major says it 's drillin',  
And 'is straffin' on parade ;  
Doctor swears it 's sanitation,  
And some patent stinks 'e 's made.  
Padre tells us it 's religion,  
And the Spirit of the Lord ;  
But I ain't got much religion,  
And I sticks it still, by Gawd.  
Quarters kids us it 's the rations,  
And the dinners as we gets ;  
But I knows what keeps us smilin',  
It 's the Woodbine Cigarettes.

For the daytime seems more dreary,  
And the night-time seems to drag  
To eternity of darkness,  
When ye 'aven't got a fag.  
Then the rain seems some'ow wetter,  
And the cold cuts twice as keen,  
And ye keeps on seein' Boches,  
What the Sargint 'asn't seen. .  
If ole Fritz 'as been and got ye,  
And ye 'ave to stick the pain,  
If ye 'aven't got a fag on,  
Why it 'urts as bad again.  
When there ain't no fags to pull at,  
Then there 's terror in the ranks.  
That 's the secret—(yes, I 'll 'ave one)  
Just a fag—and many Tanks.

## WHAT 'S THE GOOD ?

WELL, I 've done my bit o' scrappin',  
And I 've done in quite a lot ;  
Nicked 'em neatly wiv my bayonet,  
So I needn't waste a shot.  
'Twas my duty, and I done it,  
But I 'opes the doctor 's quick,  
For I wish I 'adn't done it,  
Gawd ! it turns me shamed and sick.

There 's a young 'un like our Richard,  
And I bashed 'is 'ead in two,  
And there 's that ole grey-'aired geezer  
Which I stuck 'is belly through.  
Gawd, you women, wives and mothers,  
It 's sich waste of all your pain,  
If you knowed what I 'd been doin',  
Could yer kiss me still, my Jane ?  
When I sets me dahn to tell yer  
What it means to scrap and fight  
Could I tell ye true and honest,  
Make ye see this bleedin' sight ?  
No I couldn't and I wouldn't,  
It would turn your 'air all grey ;



Women suffers 'ell to bear us,  
And we suffers 'ell to slay.  
I suppose some Fritz went courtin'  
In the gloamin' same as me,  
And the old world turned to 'eaven  
When they kissed beneath a tree.  
And each evening seemed more golden,  
Till the day as they was wed,  
And 'is bride stood shy and blushin',  
Like a June rose, soft and red.  
I remembers 'ow it were, lass,  
On that silver night in May,  
When ye 'ung your 'ead and whispered  
That ye couldn't say me nay.  
Then, when June brought in the roses  
And you changed your maiden name,  
'Ow ye stood there, shy and blushin',  
When the call of evening came.  
I remembers 'ow I loved ye,  
When ye arsked me in your pride  
'Ow I 'd liked my Sunday dinner  
As ye nestled at my side.  
For between a thousand races  
Lands may stretch and seas may foam,  
But it makes no bloomin' difference,  
Boche or Briton, 'ome is 'ome.

I remember what 'e cost ye,  
When I gave ye up for dead,  
As I 'eld your 'and and watched ye  
With the little lad in bed.

*'Struth I wish 'e 'd stop 'is lookin',  
And shut up 'is bloomin' eyes.*

*'Cause I keeps on seein' Richard  
When I whacks 'im and 'e cries.*

Damn the blasted war to 'ell, lass,  
It 's just bloody rotten waste,  
Them as gas on war and glory  
Oughter come and 'ave a taste.

Yes, I larned what women suffers  
When I seed you stand the test,  
But you knowed as it were worth it  
When 'e felt to find your breast.

All your pain were clean forgotten  
When you touched 'is little 'ead,  
And ye sat up proud and smilin',  
With a living lad in bed.

But we suffers too—we suffers,  
Like the damned as groans in 'ell,  
And we 'aven't got no Babies,  
Only mud, and blood, and smell.

'Tain't the suff'rin as I grouse at,  
I can stick my bit o' pain ;  
But I keeps on allus askin'  
What 's the good, and who 's to gain ?  
When ye 've got ' a plain objective '  
Ye can fight your fight and grin,  
But there ain't no damned objective,  
And there ain't no prize to win.  
We 're just like a lot o' bullocks  
In a blarsted china shop,  
Bustin' all the world to blazes,  
'Cause we dunno 'ow to stop,  
Trampling years of work and wonder  
Into dust beneath our feet,  
And the one as does most damage  
Swears that victory is sweet.  
It 's a sweet as turns to bitter,  
Like the bitterness of gall,  
And the winner knows 'e 's losin'  
If 'e stops to think at all.  
I suppose this ain't the spirit  
Of the Patriotic man.  
Didn't ought to do no thinkin' ;  
Soldiers just kill all they can.  
But we carn't 'elp thinkin' sometimes,  
Though our business is to kill,

War 'as turned us into butchers,  
 But we 're only 'uman still.  
 Gawd knows well I ain't no thinker,  
 And I never knew before,  
 But I knows now why I 'm fightin',  
 It 's to put an end to war.  
 Not to make my country richer,  
 Or to keep her flag unfurled,  
 Over every other nation  
 Tyrant mistress of the world.  
 Not to boast of Britain's glory,  
 Bought by bloodshed in her wars,  
 But that Peace may shine about her,  
 As the sea shines round her shores.  
 If ole Fritz believes in fightin',  
 And obeys 'is War Lord's will,  
 Well until 'e stops believin',  
 It 's my job to fight and kill.  
 But the Briton ain't no butcher,  
 'E 's a peaceful cove at 'eart,  
 And it 's only 'cause 'e 'as to  
 That 'e plays the butcher's part.  
 'Cause I 'as to—that 's the reason  
 Why I done the likes o' this ;  
 You 're an understanding woman,  
 And you won't refuse your kiss.

Women pity soldiers' sorrow,  
That can bring no son to birth,  
Only death and devastation,  
Darkness over all the earth.  
We won't 'ave no babe to cuddle,  
Like a blessing to the breast,  
We 'll just 'ave a bloody mem'ry  
To disturb us when we rest.  
But the kids will some day bless us,  
When they grows up British men,  
'Cause we tamed the Prussian tyrant,  
And brought Peace to earth again.

## OLD ENGLAND

YES, I 'm fightin' for old England  
And for eighteen pence a day,  
And I 'm fightin' like an 'ero,  
So the daily papers say.  
Well, I ain't no downy chicken,  
I 'm a bloke past forty-three,  
And I 'm goin' to tell ye honest  
What old England means to me.  
When I joined the British Army  
I 'd bin workin' thirty years,  
But I left my bloomin' rent book  
Showin' three months in arrears.  
No, I weren't no chronic booser,  
Nor I weren't a lad to bet,  
I worked 'ard when I could get it,  
And I weren't afeared to sweat.  
But I weren't a tradesman proper,  
And the work were oft to seek,  
So the most as I could addle  
Were abaht a quid a week.  
And when me and Jane got married,  
And we 'ad our oldest kid,  
We soon learned 'ow many shillings  
Go to make a golden quid.

For we 'ad to keep our clubs up,  
And there 's three and six for rent,  
And with food and boots and clothing  
It no sooner came than went.  
Then when kiddies kep' on comin',  
We reared four and buried three,  
My ole woman couldn't do it,  
So we got in debt—ye see.  
And we 'ad a 'eap of sickness  
And we got struck off the club,  
With our little lot o' troubles  
We just couldn't pay the sub.  
No, I won't tell you no false'oods ;  
There were times I felt that queer  
That I went and did the dirty  
And I 'ad a drop o' beer.  
Then the wife and me 'ud quarrel,  
And our 'ome were little 'ell,  
Wiv the 'ungry kiddies cryin'  
Till I eased up for a spell.  
There was times when it were better,  
And some times when it were worse,  
But to take it altogether  
My old England were a curse.  
It were sleepin', sweatin', starvin',  
Wearing boot soles for a job,

It were sucking up to foremen  
    What 'ud sell ye for a bob.  
It were cringin', crawlin', whinin'  
    For the right to earn your bread,  
It were schemin', pinchin', plannin',  
    It were wishin' ye was dead.  
I 'm not fightin' for old England,  
    Not for this child—am I 'ell—  
For the sake o' that old England  
    I 'd not face a single shell.  
Not a single bloomin' whizzbang,  
    Never mind this blarsted show,  
With your comrades falling round ye,  
    Lying bleeding in a row.  
This ain't war, it 's ruddy murder,  
    It 's a stinkin' slaughter 'ouse.

'Ark to that one, if 'e got ye  
    'E 'd just squash ye like this louse.  
Would I do this for old England,  
    Would I 'ell, I says, not me.  
What I says is sink old England  
    To the bottom of the sea.  
It 's new England as I fights for,  
    It 's an England swep' aht clean,



An England where we 'll see the things  
Our eyes 'ave never seen.  
Decent wages, justice, mercy,  
And a chance for ev'ry man  
For to make 'is 'ome an 'eaven  
If 'e does the best 'e can.  
It 's that better, cleaner England,  
Made o' better, cleaner men,  
It 's that England as I fights for,  
And I 'm game to fight again.  
It 's the better land o' Blighty  
That still shines afore our eyes,  
That 's the land a soldier fights for,  
And for that a soldier dies.

## THE SNIPER

THERE 's a Jerry over there, Sarge !  
Can't you see 'is big square 'ead ?  
If 'e bobs it up again there,  
I 'll soon nail 'im—nail 'im dead.  
Gimme up that pair o' glasses  
And just fix that blinkin' sight,  
Gawd ! that nearly almost got 'im,  
There 'e is now—see ? 'Arf right.  
If 'e moves again I 'll get 'im,  
Take these glasses 'ere and see,  
What 's that ? Got 'im through the 'ead,  
Sarge ?  
Where 's my blarsted cup o' tea ?

## PASSING THE LOVE OF WOMEN

Yes, I 've sat in the summer twilight,  
Wiv a nice girl, 'and in 'and,  
But I've thought even then of the shell  
'oles,  
Where the boys of the old Bat. stand.  
I 've turned to 'er lips for 'er kisses,  
And I 've found them kisses cold,  
Stone cold and pale like a twice-told tale,  
What has gorn all stale and old.  
And the light in 'er eyes 'as gorn all faint,  
And the sound of 'er voice grown dim,  
As I 'eard the machine guns singin' aht,  
A-singin' their evenin' 'ymn.  
Yes, I 've known the love ov a woman,  
lad,  
And maybe I shall again,  
But I knows a stronger love than theirs,  
And that is the love of men.  
I could keep my cushy billet, lad,  
If I liked to swing the lead,  
I could kiss my gal in the gloamin'  
And sleep in a decent bed.  
But I 've 'eard my comrades callin' aht,  
From across that bit ov sea,

Come back—come back—would ye loaf and  
slack,  
And leave it to such as we ?  
Come back—come back—with their old tack-  
tack,  
I can 'ear the machine guns sing,  
Come back—come back—don't skunk and  
slack,  
For this ain't no time to swing ;  
Come back—come back into no man's land,  
For that is the land of men,  
And no man's land is the true man's land,  
Come back—come back again.  
Aye, the love of women draws ye, lad,  
It 's the oldest, sweetest spell,  
But your comrade Love is stronger love,  
'Cause it draws ye back to 'ell.  
The love of a woman draws to 'eaven,  
An' 'eaven of 'uman bliss,  
To the eyes that sing, the arms that cling,  
And the long, long lovers' kiss.  
But your comrades keeps on callin' ye,  
Callin' ye back to 'ell,  
To the fear o' death and the chokin'  
breath,  
Drawn thick with a sickly smell.

Gawd knows, old sport, I 'ave loved my lass  
As a man should love his mate,  
Body and soul I 'ave loved my lass,  
But this love 's strong—like Fate.  
It 'as cut down deep, to see 'er weep,  
And she knows I love 'er well,  
But I must go back to the old tack-tack,  
To my pals and to Bloody 'Ell.

## PRAYER BEFORE AN ATTACK

It ain't as I 'opes 'E 'll keep me safe  
While the other blokes goes down,  
It ain't as I wants to leave this world  
And wear an 'ero's crown.  
It ain't for that as I says my prayers  
When I goes to the attack,  
But I pray that whatever comes my way  
I may never turn me back.  
I leaves the matter o' life and death  
To the Father who knows what 's best,  
And I prays that I still may play the man  
Whether I turns east or west.  
I 'd sooner that it were east, ye know,  
To Blighty and my gal Sue;  
I 'd sooner be there, wi' the gold in 'er 'air,  
And the skies be'ind all blue.  
But still I pray I may do my bit,  
And then, if I must turn west,  
I 'll be unashamed when my name is named,  
And I 'll find a soldier's rest.

## TO STRETCHER BEARERS

EASY does it—bit o' trench 'ere,  
Mind that blinkin' bit o' wire,  
There 's a shell 'ole on your left there,  
Lift 'im up a little 'igher.  
Stick it, lad, ye 'll soon be there now,  
Want to rest 'ere for a while ?  
Let 'im dahn then—gently—gently,  
There ye are, lad. That 's the style.  
Want a drink, mate ? 'Ere 's my bottle,  
Lift 'is 'ead up for 'im, Jack,  
Put my tunic underneath 'im,  
'Ow 's that, chummy ? That 's the tack !  
Guess we 'd better make a start now,  
Ready for another spell ?  
Best be goin', we won't 'urt ye,  
But 'e might just start to shell.  
Are ye right, mate ? Off we goes then.  
That 's well over on the right,  
Gawd Almighty, that 's a near 'un !  
'Old your end up good and tight,  
Never mind, lad, you 're for Blighty,  
Mind this rotten bit o' board.

We 'll soon 'ave ye tucked in bed, lad,  
'Opes ye gets to my old ward.

No more war for you, my 'earty,  
This 'll get ye well away,  
Twelve good months in dear old Blighty,  
Twelve good months if you 're a day,  
M.O. 's got a bit o' something  
What 'll stop that blarsted pain.  
'Ere 's a rotten bit o' ground, mate,  
Lift up 'igher—up again ;  
Wish 'e 'd stop 'is blarsted shellin',  
Makes it rotten for the lad.  
When a feller 's been and got it,  
It affec's 'im twice as bad.  
'Ow 's it goin' now then, sonny ?  
'Ere 's that narrow bit o' trench,  
Careful, mate, there 's some dead Jerries.  
Lawd Almighty, what a stench !  
'Ere we are now, stretcher-case, boys,  
Bring him aht a cup o' tea !  
*Inasmuch as ye have done it*  
*Ye have done it unto Me.*



## TO-DAY THOU SHALT BE WITH ME

GAWD ! 'ow it shoots !  
From my 'ead to my boots !  
And back to my 'ead again !  
You never can tell,  
But I don't think 'ell  
Can be worse than this blarsted pain.

There 's 'eaven and 'ell,  
They say so,—Well  
I dunnow what they mean,  
But it 's touch and go,  
And I may soon know,  
It 's funny there 's nothin' between.

I 've drunk and I 've swore,  
And the girl next door  
Is a' breakin' 'er 'eart thro' me.  
She 's a bonny lass—  
Gawd damn this gas !  
I wonder just where I 'll be.

I remembers a day,  
When they blazed away,  
And they bust up a church to bits :

But the cross still stood,  
It were only wood.  
This pain—it 's givin' me fits.

Aye there it stands,  
With its outstretched hands,  
And I can't 'elp wonderin' why.  
I can't quite see,  
Is 'E lookin' at me ?  
O Gawd, am I goin' to die !

I can't ! Not yet !  
My Gawd, I sweat !  
There 's a mist comin' over my eyes.  
Christ, let me be,  
To-day, with Thee.  
You took a *thief* to Paradise !

## NO RETALIATION

THERE 's another gorn to glory !  
Damn and blast these blinkin' 'Uns !  
Where 's our damn retaliation ?  
What 's the matter wiv the guns ?  
If they 'd only give 'em rations  
Same as they keeps givin' us,  
They 'd soon stop their bloomin' antics—  
Gawd, it makes a fellah cuss.  
One by one I sees 'em goin',  
All the gamest and the best,  
One by one they keeps on goin',  
There 's another lad gorn west.  
I suppose there 's no munitions.  
Got to save up for a spell.  
While they does their blarsted savin',  
My platoon gets blowed to 'ell.  
Damn these blame munition workers,  
Damn them and their bloomin' strike,  
Thinks it 's same as Peace conditions,  
They can do just as they like.  
Think o' Jimmy Brown ! 'E 's earnin'  
Easy four pun ten a week,  
And 'e 's struck for better money—  
'E 's the one as oughter speak—

Been and bought a noo pianer,  
And 'is wife a noo fur coat ;  
Gawd, I 'opes 'is Sunday dinner  
Stops and turns round in 'is throat.  
'Ow 'd 'e like these blarsted trenches,  
'Ow 'd 'e like this cussed mud,  
'Ow 'd 'e like 'is Sunday dinner  
From a dicksee stained wiv blood,  
'Ow 'd 'e like to sit and eat it  
Next an 'arf unburied Fritz,  
Wiv a smell that turns your stummick  
As ye eats a bite and spits ?  
Better money ! Gawd Almighty !  
Give us sporting charnce ov life.  
I don't arsk for better money,  
Gimme leave to see my wife.  
She don't want no noo pianer,  
All she wants is me come 'ome,  
If there 's no retaliation,  
All I gets is kingdom come.  
Better money—better money,  
Gawd, it makes a fellah sick,  
All they thinks abaht is money,  
And they make it too damn quick.  
But it 's rotten bloody money,  
Oughter rob 'em of their sleep,

They 're just buyin' British bodies,  
Buyin' tears what women weep.  
Don't I wish I 'ad 'em 'ere now,  
I 'd soon teach 'em what is what,  
They 'd soon strike for better money,  
This 'ud touch 'em on the spot.  
All the blokes what 's on moonitions  
Oughter come 'ere for a spell,  
All them dudes what 's profiteerin'  
Oughter be out 'ere—in 'ell.  
Gawd, the blighters couldn't do it,  
If they damn well only knew,  
But they don't—they won't believe it,  
*They don't think that war is true.*

## THY WILL BE DONE

A Sermon in a Hospital

I WERE puzzled about this prayin' stunt,  
And all as the parsons say,  
For they kep' on sayin', and sayin',  
And yet it weren't plain no way.  
For they told us never to worry,  
But simply to trust in the Lord,  
'Ask and ye shall receive,' they said,  
And it sounds orlright, but Gawd!  
It 's a mighty puzzling business,  
For it don't allus work that way,  
Ye may ask like mad, and ye don't  
receive,  
As I found out t'other day.  
I were sittin' me down on my 'unkers,  
And 'avin' a pull at my pipe,  
And larfin' like fun at a blind old 'Un,  
What were 'avin' a try to snipe.  
For 'e couldn't shoot for monkey nuts,  
The blinkin' blear-eyed ass,  
So I sits, and I spits, and I 'ums a tune;  
And I never thought o' the gas.  
Then all of a suddint I jumps to my feet,  
For I 'eard the strombos sound,

And I pops up my 'ead a bit over the bags  
To 'ave a good look all round.  
And there I seed it, comin' across,  
Like a girt big yaller cloud,  
Then I 'olds my breath, i' the fear o' death,  
Till I bust, then I prayed aloud.  
I prayed to the Lord Orlmighty above,  
For to shift that blinkin' wind,  
But it kep' on blowin' the same 'ole way,  
And the chap next me, 'e grinned.  
'It's no use prayin',' 'e said, 'let's run,'  
And we fairly took to our 'eels,  
But the gas ran faster nor we could run,  
And, Gawd, you know 'ow it feels!  
Like a thousand rats and a million chats,  
All tearin' away at your chest,  
And your legs won't run, and you're fairly  
done,  
And you've got to give up and rest.  
Then the darkness comes, and ye knows no  
more  
Till ye wakes in an 'orspital bed.  
And some never knows nothin' more at all,  
Like my pal Bill—'e's dead.  
Now, 'ow was it 'E didn't shift that wind,  
When I axed in the name o' the Lord ?

With the 'orrer of death in every breath,  
 Still I prayed every breath I drawed.  
 That beat me clean, and I thought and I thought  
 Till I came near bustin' my 'ead.  
 It weren't for me I were grieved, ye see,  
 It were my pal Bill—'e 's dead.  
 For me, I 'm a single man, but Bill  
 'As kiddies at 'ome and a wife.  
 And why ever the Lord didn't shift that wind  
 I just couldn't see for my life.  
 But I 've just bin readin' a story 'ere,  
 Of the night afore Jesus died,  
 And of 'ow 'E prayed in Gethsemane,  
 'Ow 'E fell on 'Is face and cried.  
 Cried to the Lord Orlmighty above  
 Till 'E broke in a bloody sweat,  
 And 'E were the Son of the Lord, 'E were,  
 And 'E prayed to 'Im 'ard, and yet,  
 And yet 'E 'ad to go through wiv it, boys,  
 Just same as pore Bill what died.  
 'E prayed to the Lord, and 'E sweated blood,  
 And yet 'E were crucified.  
 But 'Is prayer were answered, I sees it now,  
 For though 'E were sorely tried,  
 Still 'E went wiv 'Is trust in the Lord unbroke,  
 And 'Is soul it were satisfied.



For 'E felt 'E were doin' God's Will, ye see,  
 What 'E came on the earth to do,  
 And the answer what came to the prayers 'E  
     prayed  
 Was 'Is power to see it through ;  
 To see it through to the bitter end,  
 And to die like a God at the last,  
 In a glory of light that were dawning bright  
 Wi' the sorrow of death all past.  
 And the Christ who was 'ung on the Cross is  
     God,  
 True God for me and you,  
 For the only God that a true man trusts  
     Is the God that sees it through.  
 And Bill, 'e were doin' 'is duty, boys,  
 What 'e came on the earth to do,  
 And the answer what came to the prayers I  
     prayed  
 Was 'is power to see it through.  
 To see it through to the very end,  
 And to die as my old pal died,  
 Wi' a thought for 'is pal and a prayer for 'is gal,  
 And 'is brave 'eart satisfied.

## WHAT 'S THE USE OF A CROSS TO 'IM ?

PARSON says I 'm to make 'im a cross  
To set up over 'is grave,  
'E 's buried there by the Moated Grange,  
And I 'ad a damn close shave,  
But 'e were taken and I were left,  
And why it 's a job to see,  
For 'e 'ad a wife and some bonnie kids,  
And me—well there 's only me.  
And what 's the use of a cross to 'im ?  
'E weren't a religious man,  
'E said no prayers and 'e sang no 'ymns—  
I 'll make this do if I can.  
It 's all full o' notches—an awkward piece,  
But I 'll see what a knife 'll do.  
I allus were one to respec' the dead,  
And 'e were a good pal too.  
'E weren't a religious man, not 'im,  
Far as that goes—nor am I.  
I wonder what odds religion makes  
When a feller comes to die.  
It 's a curious thing is death, ye know.  
When we was back there at rest,  
'E were singin' 'is song—and takin' 'is glass,  
And 'avin' 'is fun wiv the best.

'E weren't no booser though, mind ye that,  
 'E were sound of 'is wind and limb,  
 'E were 'ard as a nail—a fighting lad,  
 A daisy to scrap were Jim.  
 But 'e 'll fight no more—'e 's gorn aht West  
 Wiv a great big 'ole in 'is back,  
 'E 's pushin' up daisies by Moated Grange—  
 Now where did I put that tack ?  
 I minds me arskin' a hatheist,  
 'E were livin' dahn our street,  
 'E looked like a stick wiv a turnip on,  
 But talkin' 'e 'ad me beat.  
 I minds me arskin' in Railway Inn  
 What 'e thought 'appened the dead,  
 'E took a candle and snuffed it aht,  
 ' That 's what I think,' he said.  
 But some'ow I carnt think that aht 'ere,  
 When a pal gets blowed out West ;  
 I were sure when my poor old Mother died,  
 She 'd gorn to a land o' rest,  
 I carnt make much o' what parsons say,  
 Abaht 'eaven and all them things,  
 'Eavenly cities wiv gates of pearl,  
 An' angels wiv shining wings.  
 And I carnt see old pal Jim up there,  
 Wiv a golden 'arp in 'is 'and,

A playin' of 'ymns in a horchestra  
At 'ome in the angels' band.  
'E 'd feel that awkward and out o' place,  
And fair fed up for a drink,  
If I was by and just caught 'is eye  
I bet 'e 'd give me the wink :  
For Gawd's sake bring us a bottle o' Bass,  
Or a barrel o' that French beer,  
It 's 'orrible dry sittin' up on 'igh  
And singin' these 'ymn toons 'ere.

'E weren't so bad at a ragtime song,  
But they don't 'ave ragtime there,  
If 'e were to tip 'em aht Dixie Land  
'E 'd make them angels stare.  
But 'e ain't gorn dahn to no 'ell fire,  
'E 'ad a good 'eart, 'ad Jim.  
'Is wife were as good as a lump o' gold,  
And she thought the world of 'im.  
There must be a place for the likes o' Jim,  
What isn't religious blokes,  
But is good to their pals in the trenches,  
And dear to their own 'ome folks.  
It must be the same great Gawd above  
What 'as made this world dahn 'ere,

And it takes all sorts to make this world,  
So there ain't no bloomin' fear  
But what 'E 'll fix up a job for Jim,  
A job what 'll suit 'is 'and,  
Maybe 'e 'll polish them golden 'arps  
They use in the 'eavenly band.

Maybe there 's some flowers and gardens there  
What 'll want a good 'andy man :  
I can just see Jim wiv an angel's spade  
And a 'eavenly wat'ring can.  
'E were a gard'ner in civil life,  
'E loved 'is allotment land,  
'E were allus potterin' round 'is bit,  
My Gawd—but it did smell grand.  
'E 'ad rhubarb, cabbage and radishes  
Fit for a prize at the shows,  
Pansies and daisies and mignonette,  
And that great big summer rose.  
Many a Sunday I 've sat wiv 'im,  
And 'ad a good pull at my pipe—  
My Gawd, them days ! It 's a bloody war—  
Where 'ave I put my wipe ?  
Aye, there we 'd sit and we 'd chew the rag  
And 'ark to the church bells ring,

'Twere Sunday there—wiv the Spring in the air,  
And Peace over everything.

Blyme, I wants no 'eaven but that  
In the land o' the Kingdom come,  
A pal and a pipe and a garden there—  
Ugh! damn it, I 've 'it my thumb.  
There I 've finished 'is bit of a cross,  
It 's a rough-looking awkward thing,  
But it 's all I can do with this wood, old lad—  
Just 'ark 'ow them church bells ring.  
I can 'ear 'em soundin' across the sea  
From the land where 'is garden grows,  
I can see the green ov them cabbages  
And smell the smell ov that rose.  
Gawd knows as I ain't no prayin' man,  
But I just puts up this prayer :  
If Ye 're stuck for a job what 'll suit old Jim,  
Lord, give 'im a garden there,  
And then when it comes my turn to go,  
Just put me along of 'im.  
I know as I ain't fit for 'eaven,  
But gimme a job wiv Jim  
In a garden just outside the gates,  
Where the 'eavenly roses smells,  
And blokes what ain't quite fit for 'eaven  
Can 'ark to the 'eavenly bells.

## I KNOW NOT WHERE THEY HAVE LAID HIM

I WOULDN'T mind if I only knowed  
The spot where they 'd laid my lad ;  
If I could see where they 'd buried 'im,  
It wouldn't be arf so bad.  
But they do say some 's not buried at  
all,  
Left to the maggots and flies,  
Rottin' out there in that no man's land,  
Just where they falls—they lies.  
Parson 'e says as it makes no odds,  
'Cause the soul o' the lad goes on,  
'Is spirit 'as gorn to 'is Gawd, 'e says,  
Wherever 'is body 'as gorn.  
But Parson ain't never 'ad no child,  
'E 's a man, not a woman, see ?  
'Ow can he know what a woman feels,  
And what it can mean to me ?  
For my boy's body were mine—my own,  
I bore it in bitter pain,  
Bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh,  
It lies and rots in the rain.  
Parson ain't never suckled a child,  
Nor broken 'is nights o' rest,

To 'ush it to sleep in 'is aching arms,  
 While it drew life from 'is breast.  
 'E ain't never watched by a sick child's bed,  
 Nor seed it fightin' for life ;  
 A man don't know what a mother knows,  
 'E leaves all that to 'is wife.  
 I minds that chapter as Parson read  
 When poor little Jenny died,  
 And I were feeling as I feel now,  
 Wiv this emptiness inside.  
 Thou fool—it said—thou Fool—for to ask  
 And 'ow do the dead arise ?  
 What is the body that they shall wear  
 Up there in God's Paradise ?  
 I may be a fool, but that 's just it,  
 That 's just what I wants to know,  
 What is the body my boy shall bear,  
 And 'ow does that body grow ?  
 I reckons as 'ow that Scripture piece  
 Were writ by a single man ;  
 They never knows what a body costs,  
 And I don't see 'ow they can.  
 A married man 'as a bit ov sense  
 If 'e 's been and stood wiv 'is wife,  
 'E knows the body 'is baby wears  
 'As cost 'er all but 'er life.



But even a Father never knows  
The ache in a Mother's 'eart,  
When she and the body 'er body bore  
Are severed and torn apart.  
The men wouldn't make these cursed  
wars  
If they knowed of a body's worth,  
They wouldn't be blowin' 'em all to bits  
If they 'ad the pains ov birth.  
But bless ye—the men don't know they 're  
born,  
For they gets away scot free.  
'Ow can they know what their cruel wars  
Is costin' the likes ov me ?  
I were proud to give, I 'd give again  
If I knowed the cause were right,  
For I wouldn't keep no son of mine  
When 'is dooty called to fight.  
But I 'd like to know just where it 's laid,  
That body my body bore,  
And I 'd like to know who 'll mother 'im  
Out there on that other shore,  
Who will be bearin' the mother's part  
And be makin' your body, boy ?  
Who will be 'avin' the mother's pain,  
And feelin' the mother's joy ?

Gawd, is it you ? Then bow You down  
And 'ark to a Mother's prayer.  
Don't keep it all to yourself, Good Lord,  
But give 'is old Mother a share.  
Gimme a share of the travail pain  
Of my own son's second birth,  
Double the pain if you double the joy  
That a mother feels on earth.  
Gimme the sorrow and not the joy  
If that 'as to be Your will,  
Gimme the labour and not the pride,  
But make me 'is mother still.  
Maybe the body as 'e shall wear  
Is born of my breaking heart,  
Maybe these pains are the new birth pangs  
What 'll give my laddie 'is start.  
Then I 'd not trouble 'ow hard they was,  
I 'd gladly go through the mill,  
If that noo body 'e wore were mine,  
And I were 'is mother still.

## O'GRADY'S LETTER

*(With Apologies to the Author of 'The Mountains of Mourne')*

DEAR MARY, I've comed to a wonderful shpot,  
And I wish I could stop here, but fear I  
cannot;

It's quiet and peaceful and far from the guns,  
And I can't even smell the dam stink of dead  
Huns;

I slapes in a bed, and I slapes all the night,  
And I don't wake in terror of having a fight.  
There's only one place where I'd far rather be,  
Where the mountains o' Mourne sweep down to the  
sea.

There's beautiful girls here, and though they are  
French,

Faith it does your heart good just to see a fine  
wench,

But that needn't make any diff'rence to you  
For I parle Français pas beaucoup un peu,  
And when I comes askin' for one dacent hug,  
They say—mais vous avez beaucoup ugly mug.  
So if I wants kissin' I'd far better be

Where the mountains o' Mourne sweep down to the  
sea.

There 's some English girls here, we call 'em the  
W.A.A.C.'s,  
And they 're togged up in khaki, wi' leggin's and  
macs.  
There 's nothin' they can't do, and faith you should  
see  
These maidens do drillin' as smart as can be.  
And if I weren't faithful, my colleen, to you  
Sure I know what this boy would be tryin' to do.  
For I 'd do very well wid a W.A.A.C. on each knee,  
Where the mountains o' Mourne sweep down to the  
sea.

We 've beaucoup Instructors wid voices like guns  
And wid murderous faces to frighten the Huns,  
They makes us look ugly and tells us to swear ;  
I never was handsome, but now I declare  
I spits and I swears when I turns in my bed,  
And I strikes the next feller and grins when he 's  
dead,  
I 've got such a mug that ye 'd tremble at me,  
Where the mountains o' Mourne sweep down to  
the sea.

(Later)

Dear Mary, I tries very hard to be true,  
But these French girls is out for to win me from you,

I 'm gettin' so good at the French do ye see  
That begorra they 're always a chasin' of me.  
I met one last night, and I just said ' Bon soir,'  
And she said, ' Voulez-vous promenade avec moi.'  
If I 'm still to be yours I must hurry, chérie,  
Where the mountains o' Mourne sweep down to  
the sea.

We went for a ride on an automobus,  
And, dear Lord, I can tell ye it was fine for us.  
We went to a city whose name I can't tell,  
And we strolled in the streets and looked round us,  
and, well !  
I never did see so much powder and puff,  
These French damosels is the divil's hot stuff.  
But still I remembered ye waitin' for me,  
Where the mountains o' Mourne sweep down to  
the sea.

## WORRY

RIGHT as ninepence, thank ye kindly,  
There are umpty worse than me,  
I 'd be fit to fight to-morrer  
If my bloomin' eyes could see.  
But they can't, sir, that 's the noosance,  
I 'm as blind as forty bats,  
And I 'as to work by feel, sir,  
Like ye does at night for chats.  
'Ow it 'appened—well it 'appened  
On a bloomin' night patrol,  
When I got a blinkin' whizzbang  
To myself and got it whole.  
Yes, the last thing as I seed, sir,  
Were a burst of silver light,  
And it went and left the darkness,  
'Cause it took away my sight.  
There was me and old Bill Drury  
And 'e got one through the 'ead ;  
We tried 'ard to fetch 'im back, sir,  
But it weren't no bon —'e 's dead.  
And it 's when I thinks of 'im, sir,  
Of 'is kiddies and 'is wife,  
That I thanks the one above, sir,  
That I still 'ave got my life.

There are times I wants to see, sir,  
Like a beggar wants a meal,  
But when I remembers Billie  
Then I ain't disposed to squeal.  
For I 've got my legs and arms, sir,  
And these 'ands is willing still,  
I can do my job of work yet ;  
I can do it—and I will.  
There 's just one thing I 'm afeard on,  
Will they find me work to do ?  
That 's the thing as makes me worry,  
Same as it would worry you.  
When this blarsted war is over,  
And we settles dahn again  
To the makin' of the money,  
Will they still remember then ?  
Yes, I know they 've been and promised,  
But it 's easy to forget.  
When the shoutin' 's done and over,  
There 's accounts to settle yet.  
There 'll be thousands same as me, sir,  
Out to do what work they can,  
Not disabled, but like me, sir,  
Not just everybody's man.  
Will they find us jobs to work at  
Where two 'ands can earn their pay,

For a wage enough to keep us  
Free from debt, and pay our way ?  
That 's the only thing as worries  
When I sits me down to think,  
Will I get my charnce of 'ome, sir,  
And enough to eat and drink ?



## THE PENSIONER

'Im and me was kids together,  
    Played together, went to school,  
Where Miss Jenkins used to rap us  
    On our knuckles wiv a rule.  
When we left we worked together,  
    At the Fact'ry, makin' jam,  
Gawd 'ave mercy on us women !  
    I 'm full up to-day—I am.  
Well I minds the August Monday,  
    When 'e said 'e loved me true,  
Underneath the copper beech tree,  
    With the moonbeams shining through.  
Then we walked down by the River,  
    Silent like an' 'and in 'and,  
Till we came there by the Ketch Inn,  
    Where them two big willows stand.  
There 'e caught me roughly to 'im,  
    An' 'is voice was 'oarse and wild,  
As 'e whispered through 'is kisses,  
    ' Will ye mother me, my child ? '  
An' I took and kissed and kissed 'im,  
    Sweet as love and long as life,  
Vowed while breath was in my body  
    I would be 'is faithful wife.

And I seemed to see 'is Baby,  
     Smiling as 'e lay at rest,  
 With 'is tiny 'and a-clutching  
     At the softness of my breast.  
 Gawd above, them days was 'eaven !  
     I can see the river shine  
 Like a band of silver ribbon,  
     I can feel 'is 'and in mine.  
 I can feel them red 'ot kisses  
     On my lips or on my 'air.  
 I can feel 'is arm tight round me,  
     Gawd ! I tell ye it ain't fair.  
 Look ye what the war 's done at 'im,  
     Lying there as still as death.  
 See 'is mouth all screwed and twisted,  
     With the pain of drawing breath !  
 But of course I 'ave a pension,  
     Coming reg'lar ev'ry week.  
 So I ain't got much to grouse at—  
     I suppose it 's like my check,  
 Grousin' when a grateful country  
     Buys my food and pays my rent.  
 I should be most 'umbly grateful  
     That my John was one as went,  
 Went to fight for King and Country,  
     Like a 'ero and a man,

I should be most 'umbly grateful,  
And just do as best I can.  
But my pension won't buy kisses,  
An' 'e'll never kiss again,  
'E ain't got no kissin' in 'im,  
Ain't got nothin' now—but pain.  
Not as I would ever change 'im  
For the strongest man alive.  
While the breath is in my body  
Still I 'll mother 'im—and strive  
That I keeps my face still smiling,  
Though my 'eart is fit to break,  
As I lives a married widow,  
So I 'll live on for 'is sake.  
But I says—Let them as makes 'em  
Fight their wars and mourn their dead.  
Let their women sleep for ever  
In a loveless, childless bed.  
No—I know—it ain't right talkin',  
But there 's times as I am wild.  
Gawd! you dunno 'ow I wants it—  
'Ow I wants—a child—'is child.

## A GAL OF THE STREETS

'Verily I say unto you the . . . harlots go into the Kingdom of Heaven before you.'

I MET 'er one night down in Leicester Square,  
With paint on 'er lips and dye on 'er 'air,  
With 'er fixed glad eye and 'er brazen stare,  
She were a gal on the streets.

I was done with leave—on my way to France,  
To the ball of death and the devil's dance,  
I was raving mad—and glad of the chance  
To meet a gal on the streets.

I went with 'er 'ome—to the cursèd game,  
And we talked of men with the talk of shame,  
I 'appened to mention a dead pal's name,  
She were a gal on the streets.

'Your pal! Do you know 'im?' she stopped and  
said:  
'Ow is 'e? Where is 'e? I once knowed Ted.'  
I stuttered and stammered aht—'E's gorn—dead.'  
She were a gal on the streets.

She stood there and swayed like a drunken man,  
And 'er face went green where 'er paint began,  
Then she muttered, ' My Gawd, I carnt ' ; and ran—  
She were a gal on the streets.

## IT'S THE PLUCK

Jesus kept on saying :

'Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.'

I DON'T un'erstand religion, but I un'erstands a  
Man,  
And I 'm pretty well aware what men can do,  
I 've tramped the whole world over,  
Through 'Frisco back to Dover,  
And I knows my 'uman nature through and  
through.

Yes, I 've done a bit ov scrappin', and I 've seen men  
cuss and die,  
And I wouldn't like to write what I 'ave seen,  
For a shell goes anywheres,  
And it don't mind what it tears,  
Leaving lumps of bloody flesh where men 'ave  
been.

But this tale fair takes the cake ; it 's a corker, no  
mistake.

I can un'erstand them 'oles in 'ands and feet,  
It 's a nasty, tender spot  
Where ye gets it good and 'ot,  
For the nerves goes winding round the place, and  
meet

Where the nails went in, and Crikey but it 'urts,  
you bet it does !

And it must 'ave 'urt 'Im 'ard as any 'ell  
For to give ye proper jip,  
'Ell on earth, and no damn lip,  
Why I 'd back them rusty nails agin a shell.

I can un'erstand 'Is stickin' it, and grittin' on 'Is teeth  
For to keep 'isself from cussin' wiv 'Is lips,  
'Cos the best of blokes is still  
When they 've got about their fill,  
And the white man doesn't splutter when 'e grips.

But to pray for them as did it ! That 's the bit as  
'as me beat,  
It 's away beyond the reach ov mortal men.  
To stick it is the limit,  
No matter 'ow ye trim it,  
This 'ere prayin' is a piece beyond our ken.

Mind ye, I 'm not sure I likes it ; I 'm for giving  
what ye gets—  
I 'm for strikin' back as 'ard as you 've been struck.  
But I just couldn't do it,  
I 'd bust—and blind, and blue it,  
'T'ain't the prayin' as I 'm gone on—it 's the  
pluck.

## THE SPIRIT

WHEN there ain't no gal to kiss you,  
And the postman seems to miss you,  
And the fags have skipped an issue,  
Carry on.

When ye 've got an empty belly,  
And the bulley 's rotten smelly,  
And you 're shivering like a jelly,  
Carry on.

When the Boche has done your chum in,  
And the sergeant 's done the rum in,  
And there ain't no rations comin',  
Carry on.

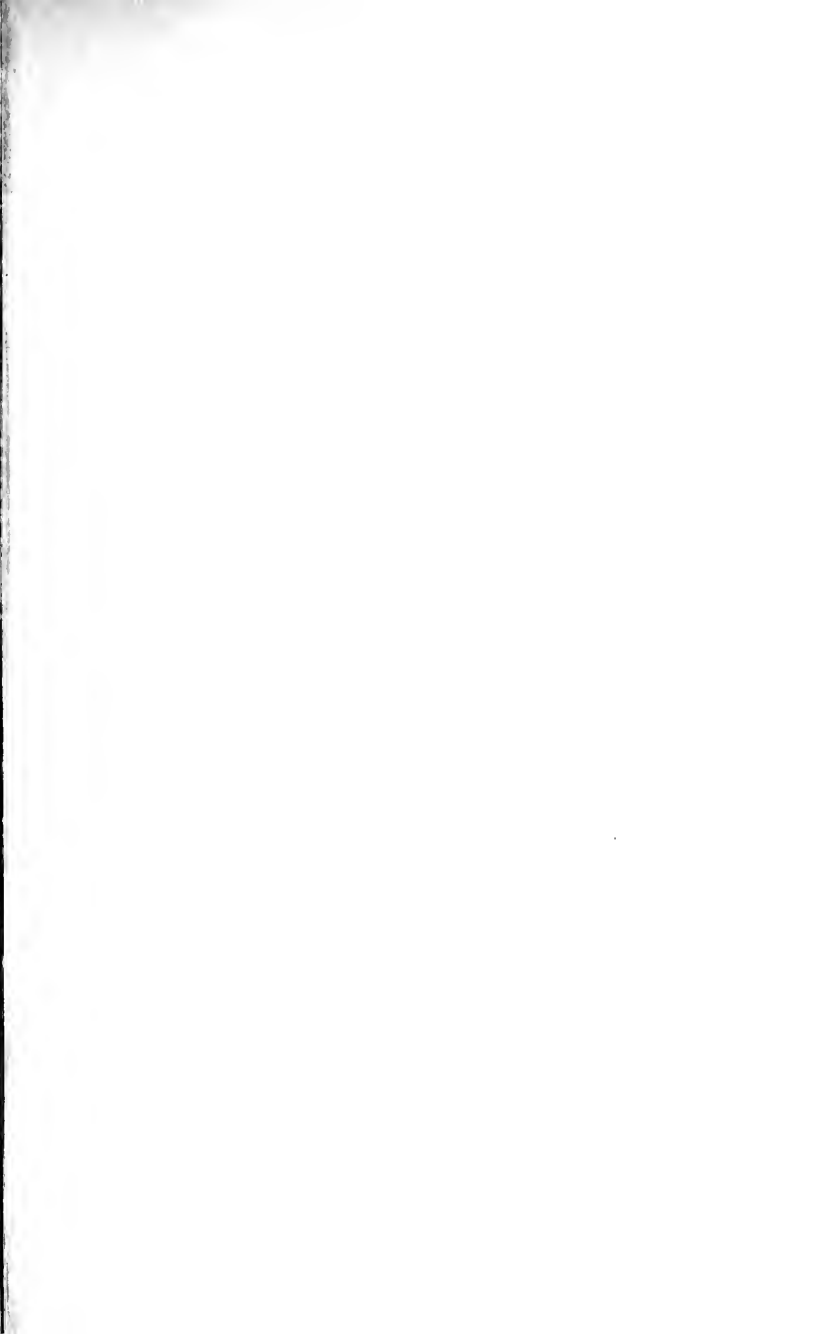
When the world is red and reeking,  
And the shrapnel shells are shrieking,  
And your blood is slowly leaking,  
Carry on.

When the broken, battered trenches,  
Are like bloody butchers' benches,  
And the air is thick with stenches,  
Carry on.



Carry on,  
Though your pals are pale and wan,  
And the hope of life is gone,  
    Carry on.  
For to do more than you can  
Is to be a British man,  
Not a rotten 'also ran'—  
    *Carry on.*











AUG 1961

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE  
CARDS OR SLIPS FROM THIS POCKET

---

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO LIBRARY

---

H&SS  
A  
4218

UTL AT DOWNSVIEW



D RANGE BAY SHLF POS ITEM C  
39 09 12 03 05 016 0